

Unit 6: Economics of Health Care
Z-Chapter 16
ONLINE CONTENT (1 H)

Unit Objectives:

- Define economics and health care economics. (5,7)*
- Use a basic knowledge of health care economics to analyze trends in the health care delivery system. Explain and apply the five rights of delegation in nursing practice. (5,7)*

***Course Objectives**

Review the You tube video “Why Medical Bills in the US are so expensive” on this website <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NvnOUcG-ZI> and place your answers to the following questions in the Z-CH # 16 drop box by 0800 on March 14, 2024.

1. What are the most common ways individuals use to raise money for healthcare costs not covered by insurance? What are your thoughts on using social media to raise money for healthcare costs? What are some of the costs not covered by insurance?
Social media such as gofundme pages and other fundraising sources. I believe that social media is a great way to raise money because it provides such a large source of community and easy access to donations. Some costs not covered by insurance is transportation to appointments, and parking at the hospitals as well as some supplies and they do not always cover medications.
2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?
Physicians, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, shareholders, and insurance companies.
3. What are the metrics used to judge hospitals and do you think these are the appropriate metrics, explain your answer?
Things such as the length of stay, patient satisfaction, hospital incidents, physician performance. I believe that these can be appropriate if used correctly. Often times patient satisfaction is hard to gauge as there may be patients that complain about the stay based off of one very small detail such as their food was cold even if they had the best care possible.
4. Explain what “unbundling” is?
Unbundling is a series of codes used to bill patients. For example the code for a laceration is one thing, but then the size, depth, and care needed all goes into effect.
5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?
If I had the ability to create a healthcare system from scratch I would bring back the real care of healthcare. It is too business (money) focused and we’ve lost the heart of care. I also believe that patients should not be billed if they have a genetic condition that could not be triggered by lifestyle factors. For example, a patient with Leukemia due to genetics should not have to pay for their treatments as these are often times very expensive and insurance does not always cover costs. I understand this is not realistic as the corporations would lose a lot of money, but in a perfect world it is what I would want.