

**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?** Social media has been the most common way to raise funds. GoFundMe is the largest. Selling items and fundraisers both being promoted on social media. **What are your thoughts on using social media to raise money for healthcare costs?** I feel that some of the GFM accounts are just people trying to get free money. I understand some are actually trying to help because of a huge problem, but when there are people are posting a GFM and then the recipients of the fund are out buying a new whatever or flaunting going out all the time it’s an issue. Some people try to cut costs to afford the bills and may need a little help but when a person isn’t busting their butt to make the budget work and they just work the system it’s not ok. **What are some of the costs not covered by insurance?** Some costs that are not covered are some medications or drugs, parking at facilities, hotel stays, gas for vehicle, bus passes, some supplies, some ambulance rides, and meals for family.
2. **Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?** The entities are the physicians, shareholders, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and hospitals.
3. **What are the metrics used to judge hospitals and do you think these are the appropriate metrics, explain your answer?** The metrics used are efficiency, profit, and return on investment. I do not think these are appropriate metrics because you’re putting money above a person’s health. The medical field is not interested in the person, but the profit they can make from the person. Its almost as if a person comes into the door, you hope they have something really wrong with them because if they do they can charge more. The person becomes an itemized list of numbers that can me them money. The longer the list of items used the more money they get.
4. **Explain what “unbundling” is?** This is taking a specific problem and breaking it down into smaller individual items. If a person comes into the ER with a cut, they don’t get one price to fix it and that’s it. Now it is the doctor bill, the nurse bill, the size of the cut, the gauze to stop the bleed, the gauze to clean the bleed, the soap, the container, the towel, the chucks in case of a mess, the medication to numb the area, the needle (one to draw up and one to inject), the syringe, the gauze to stop the bleeding from the lidocaine to numb, the sterile gloves, the regular gloves (every change costs money), the sterile drape, the iodine, the needle, the string, each stitch, the staple gun, each staple, the gauze to clean, sterile kit (and each item in it), the bacitracin, the band-aid, the ace wrap, the Coban, the paperwork, the prescriptions, the

pharmacy staff, the it staff (just in case), the blanket/sheet, the spray to clean the room, the time spent, the wheelchair ride, the wristband, the x-ray, the radiologist, the techs, the PCTs, EVERY SINGLE ITEM.

5. **If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?** I would create one where the people are the priority. Workers have a balance of home and career. There is a shared funding so any profit would be put into this fund and what is not covered by one is covered by another. The pay is based on the actual work. (office vs front line pays differential). Care is not based on quantity, but quality. Bundling is done for the good of all.

***In order to receive full credit (1 H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignments not completed in its entirety by the assigned due date and time will result in missed class time.***