

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?
 - Most common ways are GoFundMe, fundraisers, asking friends and family, and social media.
 - I believe social media is a great way to get noticed for things such as healthcare. Social media gives you access to share your story with friends but also allows your friends to share your story and news can travel fast leading to going “viral” and getting your story out to millions of people. I do hate that healthcare is so expensive resulting in someone having to resort to this option just to care for themselves or a loved one.
 - Hospital parking is not covered by insurance, some elective and cosmetic procedures, out-of-network providers.
2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?
 - 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?
 - Some metrics used to judge hospitals consist of the length of stay, readmission rates, mortality rates, bed utilization, incidents, cost per discharge, and patient satisfaction.
 - Although I feel these are important topics I don’t feel that they give the most accurate insight into the overall performance of the hospital. For example, patient satisfaction is usually completed as surveys once the patient leaves the hospital. We all know these surveys are mostly completed when something bad has happened during their stay. So if all the surveys being returned are bad that could affect the overall clinical performance for that area.
4. Explain what “unbundling” is?
 - Unbundling has to deal with being charged something extra along with what you are already paying for. So for example multiple procedures are billed separately. Although they may have been done together they are billed separately which allows for more

reimbursement. The video also gave an example of purchasing a plane ticket, but having to pay fees for luggage and other items on the plane.

5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?
 - If I could create a healthcare system from scratch something I would do differently would be the access to lifesaving drugs (chemo medications, insulin, etc) making them more cost effective for the patient and their families. I would ensure that the overall cost of healthcare is more affordable. The issue now is that healthcare is very expensive and no one can truly afford to be sick and be treated.

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.