

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?
GoFundMe, social media, benefits, fundraisers. I think in today’s society, it’s beneficial for those who truly can’t afford their medical bills because social media is such a huge part of society these days. If the fundraiser is shared publicly, a lot of people are bound to see it. Some medications and parking at the hospital aren’t covered by insurance.
2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?
Physicians, insurance companies, shareholders, 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?
Profit, return on investment, and efficiency. I don’t think that these are the only metrics, but they definitely play a large role in the healthcare system. I think we should be more focused on patient satisfaction and outcomes, however, that’s not always the case. In work and school we’re told to chart everything single little thing we do, and yes we do things to care for our patients, but also it’s used to charge them for care and interventions we did.
4. Explain what “unbundling” is.
There are different codes that mean different prices within a healthcare system. It’s all up to the condition a patient comes in with and the complexity of caring for it.
5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?

I think I would want to create a healthcare system that focuses more on face to face interaction with your patients. As stated in the video, that’s why most of us went into the medical field in the first place, but. A lot of that interaction is taken due to having to chart and document things for billing purposes. If money and billing is so much more important that actual adequate patient interaction and care, then we need to create a code system for every intervention and medication that we can think of so that all we have to do is chart a letter or number or combination instead of spending all of our time behind a computer typing out everything word for word. The EMR has helped with that by giving us the opportunity to scan medications directly into a patient’s chart, but I think there’s more to it that should be incorporated so that we are giving patients the face to face interaction that they deserve. I also think that we need to adjust what we charge for because

medical bills are outrageous and that leads people to prevent coming in when they need medical attention because they can't afford a medical bill like that. Most of us can't.

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.