

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

**Emily Litz**

**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?**

1. Some common ways that individuals are using social media to raise money for healthcare costs include GoFundMe and social media campaigns. This leaves me dumbfounded. Many Americans believe that a single-payer system for healthcare would cause the quality of care to decrease. To me, I don't believe this. We already pay taxes in government programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and WIC to help fund Americans that do not have health coverage and or have low access to proper healthcare. This is no different than paying taxes to have universal healthcare so that 30 million people can have health insurance; but more importantly, wouldn't have to choose between affording their groceries or their needed medication.

This is why healthcare should not be run as a business. Healthcare is a basic human necessity that we will always need, in the same way that we will always need nurses, doctors, medicine, and medical research. How can you monetize on a basic human right? Corporate greed already runs rampant, and it should not be at the expense of an individual's well-being. As they mentioned in the video, many Americans are one bad accident away from going *bankrupt*. No one should have to resort to random donations to have proper access to health insurance.

Some costs that are not covered by insurance include parking or bills where patients have not reached their deductibles and where the insurance kicks in. This becomes an issue for many people because deductibles can be incredibly and unnecessarily high, and many patients are forced to pay out of pocket.

**2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?**

1. Shareholders, pharmaceutical corporations, physicians, hospitals, and insurance companies.

- 3. What are the metrics used to judge hospitals and do you think these are the appropriate metrics, explain your answer?**
1. The metrics used to judge hospitals is through the investors and shareholders that help put a price point on sick patients. I believe this is highly inappropriate and sickening because as the video stated, hospitals started out as a philanthropy, but now they're corporate driven. No human life has a price point.
- 4. Explain what “unbundling” is?**
1. Unbundling is the process of adding extra costs for services provided, and this gets added to the medical bill.
- 5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?**
1. Single payer system where every citizen over the age of 18 gets taxes taken out for healthcare, this would also vary on the amount of money you make. If you make \$250,000 a year, you would be taxed more than someone making \$50,000 a year. This would also force wealthy populations to pay their part in the healthcare system since they coincidentally have most of their income in “Wall Street, private, and property investments”. This would effectively eliminate the current for-profit health system, eliminate cost barriers, effectively bridge the gap of impoverished communities with low access to healthcare, and effectively allow every U.S. citizen to have access to a basic human right. I would eliminate hospital shareholders and eliminate insurance companies. Since the new health system would be taxpayer-funded, every single healthcare worker would be considered a government employee with government *benefits and protections*.

Nursing unions will have fewer barriers to come across if they want to form. This would also effectively reduce the chance of medical bills and make them minute. It's only when corporate greed can thrive that many suffer at its expense.

***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.***