

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 Chapter 16 and 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 3/13/2025.

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?
Websites like GoFundMe allow individuals to share their stories and ask for donations. Some people organize fundraising events to raise money. Social media has become a powerful tool for fundraising, allowing people to share their healthcare needs with a bigger audience. It can be effective because it provides a large audience and allows others to connect emotionally with the story. Many insurance plans don't cover routine dental care, eyeglasses, or vision surgeries. Therapies like acupuncture, massage, and some mental health treatments may not be covered.
2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided? Healthcare providers charge for the services provided to patients, such as office visits, surgeries, tests, etc. Insurers pay part or all of the cost of services, but they might fight claims or deny payment. Patients are responsible for co-pays, deductibles, or uncovered services. Government-run health programs may also be involved in covering costs for eligible patients, but providers and hospitals still need to meet specific conditions to receive reimbursement.
3. What are the metrics used to judge hospitals, and do you think these are the appropriate metrics, explain your answer?
Surveys like HCAHPS assess patients' opinion of their hospital experience, including communication, cleanliness, and responsiveness of staff. Metrics such as mortality rates, readmission rates, and infection rates are used to measure the quality of care provided. Patient safety metrics include things like hospital-acquired infections or surgical errors.
4. Explain what “unbundling” is?
Unbundling refers to separating out individual components of a healthcare service that would typically be bundled together and charging separately for each service. Unbundling might result in separate charges for the consultation, anesthesia, the surgery itself, recovery care, and any follow-up visits.
5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?
I would ensure that all individuals have access to affordable and quality care regardless of income, employment, or pre-existing conditions. Make the pricing of healthcare services clear

and accessible to patients, so they understand costs upfront and can make informed decisions. This could include a specific breakdown of what each service costs and what insurance will cover. Treat patients as whole individuals, addressing physical, mental, and social aspects of health.

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.