

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?
Many individuals turn to websites like GoFundMe to help pay for medical bills. Asking social media for help with medical bills is not a sustainable practice as you are relying on the generosity of others. There are many costs not covered by insurance such as parking at hospitals and certain medications.
2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided? Multiple entities fight for monetary payment in the healthcare industry. These include physicians, hospitals, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and shareholders.
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 include patient satisfaction and readmission rates. I feel that these are appropriate because providing adequate and compassionate care should be what is provided patients during their stay.
4. Explain what “unbundling” is?
Unbundling is the process of breaking a medical bill into smaller parts which allows for higher reimbursement. Hospitals are able to charge more for individual items rather than lumping them together in one cost.
5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?
It would take much research to create a better health care system in the United States. The country needs to get a handle on companies, often pharmaceutical companies that charge an outrageous price for their product. An ideal system would be one where patients are not expected to pay outrageous medical bills, not-profit hospitals are reimbursed appropriately to continue providing excellent care, and physicians and healthcare workers are paid well enough to feel they are adequately compensated for the work they do.

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.