

Unit 6: Economics of Health Care
Z-Chapter 16
ONLINE CONTENT (1 H)
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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?** One way is by utilizing the website “GoFundMe”, which allows individuals to donate money to a specific person or organization for a certain cause. People can use medical campaigns to raise money as well. I think using social media can be very beneficial if the story reaches the correct audience, but I believe it is harder to achieve than many people think. On social media, you will have to make numerous posts explaining your story to reach enough people to get an adequate donation. I also feel like many people post “fake” stories online to con people into donating money. As the video mentioned, not every doctor accepts every insurance plan. Hospitals can have staff employed by multiple third-party companies, so one trip to the E.R. may cost way more than insurance offers. An ambulance ride is costly, sutures for a laceration are costly, ostomy bags, transplants, and everything else in a hospital. People will put themselves at risk to speed to a hospital instead of calling an ambulance for professional help because of the costs.
- 2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?** Physicians, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, shareholders, and insurance companies.
- 3. What are the metrics used to judge hospitals and do you think these are the appropriate metrics, explain your answer?** Hospitals are judged by their return on investment and efficiency. The video explained how many people think the metrics are the care given to the patients, medications given to save lives, or the parking, but that is not what is covered.
- 4. Explain what “unbundling” is?** It is when there are extra charges squeezed into a final bill, which makes the price increase a great amount. Hospitals do “unbundling” through a complex system of codes. A laceration, for example, a patient will be charged the size of the cut, the location, how complex, and so on. This makes the price for one person different from the price of the next even if they both have one laceration.

5. **If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?** In Ashland, Ohio, where I grew up, there is a dentist's office that allows you to pay based on what you can afford. One person may pay \$50 for a cavity filling while another person may pay 100. The payment is based on annual income. In a health system, I think it may be beneficial if higher-income individuals contribute more but basic care remains free or low-cost for everyone. I also think routine screenings for the community should be free, if it were, people in the community would be healthier.

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.