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?
   The most common way for individuals to raise money for healthcare costs that are not covered by insurance is to use social media, such as GoFundMe. This is a website anyone can go on and create a foundation where others in your community or even through the country can donate money to it. I think using social media such as GoFundMe is a great way for people to utilize fundraising money as long as it is regulated. Often times I feel like I see some of these foundations are set up and have hundreds of people donate to them, but in reality, it turns out that none of it was true, and they gained all that money. Some of the costs that are not covered by insurance are some medications, which can add up to be very expensive over time, as well as parking at the hospital.
2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?
   - Physicians
   - Insurance companies
   - Shareholders
   - Pharmaceutical companies
   - Hospitals
3. What are the metrics used to judge hospitals and do you think these are the appropriate metrics, explain your answer?
   The metrics that are used to judge hospitals consist of profit, return on investment, and efficiency. I do not think these are appropriate metrics that a hospital should be judged on. Like the video said, it makes hospitals more of a business rather than a place to go and heal. I think there are a lot of people out there who tend to ignore their symptoms, or do not seek medical attention right away because they know that they might not be able to afford the care they are given, which is wrong in my opinion. Often times even when patients are in the hospital they are constantly thinking about how much their insurance will cover, and how they will get the money, especially if they are unable to work due to their condition.
4. Explain what "unbundling" is?
   Unbundling is when the patient pays for a specific thing such as a procedure itself, but then they have all of these extra charges added on to their bill such as the cost of their room, the

service they were given, and the food they received. So rather than just paying for the procedure, everything else eventually adds up to be very expensive.

5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?

If I could create a health care system from scratch, I think I would try to incorporate some type of business aspect into it, because these days, you can not run anything without a business aspect. However, I would do everything I can to make things simple for the patients and their families. Often times the patients receive so much information and billing papers, that it can be easy to miss one, which could lead to higher costs in the long run. I would want to simplify the bills down into shorter fragments, or try to make sure insurance covers everything. In many countries across the world, healthcare is completely free to citizens, and paid for by the government, which I would love to try to implement if I ever had the power to.

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.