

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?
GoFundMe is commonly used to raise money for healthcare costs. In 2017, one third of the money raised went towards medical costs. I think social media can be a great way to supplement income needed to pay medical costs. Some costs that are not covered by insurance can include parking costs and some medications.
2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?
Physicians, shareholders, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and hospitals are all entities that are fighting for monetary payment for services provided.
3. What are the metrics used to judge hospitals and do you think these are the appropriate metrics, explain your answer?
The hospital is being thought of as a business where the metrics are based on profit, return on investment, and efficiency. These are not appropriate measures because it is difficult to measure health in this way. Measurements should be based on providing the best care to patients who are acutely and chronically ill and seeing improvement in their treatment outcomes. It is hard to standardize measures in healthcare because every patient reacts differently, and business metrics are easily measured.
4. Explain what “unbundling” is?
Paying for one big thing but having multiple extra charges put on the final bill. For example, \$1000 for a surgical procedure but then being charged \$10 for lactated ringers, \$5 for venipuncture, \$100 for a foley, etc.
5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?
I would get rid of the unbundling concept. Patients should just be charged for the procedure they receive, and the extras should be lumped within that charge. I would also prevent pharmaceutical companies from becoming a monopoly for specific drugs like epinephrine. This would help reduce costs and increase accessibility. I think that

insurance companies should cover for all medical supply costs necessary as some supplies can become very expensive. Ambulance rides should be given at a reduced cost, if any. No one should feel like they cannot call the ambulance because they cannot afford it and choose to instead drive at a speed that is dangerous on public roads.

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.