

Mason: Policy & Politics in Nursing and Health Care, 6th Edition

UNIT 2: HEALTH CARE DELIVERY AND FINANCING

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Highly Recommended Chapters:

- Chapter 13: The United States Health Care System
- Chapter 16: A Primer on Health Economics
- Chapter 21: The Uninsured and Underinsured—On the Cusp of Health Reform
- Chapter 22: Policy Approaches to Address Health Disparities
- Chapter 29: Chronic Care Policy: Medical Homes and Primary Care

Suggested Chapters:

- Chapter 14: Financing Health Care in the United States.
- Chapter 17: Reforming Medicare
- Chapter 18: Children's Health Insurance Coverage: Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program
- Chapter 24: Long-Term Care Policy Issues
- Chapter 25: Home Care and Hospice: Evolving Policy

Optional Chapters:

- Chapter 15: Could a National Health System Work in the United States?
- Chapter 19: The United States Military Health System: Policy Challenges in Wartime and Peacetime
- Chapter 20: The Veterans Administration Health System: An Overview of Major Policy Issues
- Chapter 23: The Rural Health Care Tundra
- Chapter 26: Achieving Mental Health Parity
- Chapter 27: Integrative Health: Pathway to Health Reform and a Healthier Nation
- Chapter 28: Nursing's Influence on Drug Development and Safety
- Chapter 30: Family Caregiving and Social Policy
- Chapter 31: Health Care Clinics: Filling a Gap in the Health Care System
- Chapter 32: Nurse-Managed Health Centers
- Chapter 33: Community Health Centers: Successful Advocacy for Expanding Health Care Access
- Chapter 34: **Taking Action:** Setting Health Care in Its Social Context
- Chapter 35: **Taking Action:** Reimbursement Issues for Nurse Anesthetists: A Continuing Challenge
- Chapter 36: The Role of Foundations in Improving Health Care
- Chapter 37: Social Security: Key to Economic Security
- Chapter 38: The United Kingdom's Health System: Myths and Realities

UNIT OVERVIEW

Unit 2 begins with defining the complexities of health care in the U.S. including the multiple

interacting components, multiple stakeholders with differing goals and visions, and multiple consumers with different needs and wants. It expands on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) introduced in Unit 1 and explains how components of the Act will be used to finance health care reform.

The unit continues with a discussion of the application of economic theory to health care. It also contains topics related to the demand for and supply of health care, the markets for hospitals and nurses, the evaluation of costs and benefits of specific health care policies, and the future of the health care system.

The unit also explores the impact of current health care financing and access to care for the most vulnerable citizens (infants, children, and older adults).

RELEVANCE FOR STUDENTS: This chapter provides the opportunity to either introduce or reinforce the content to baccalaureate generalist nurses related to the complexities of the health care system and the need for fundamental change in the way resources are allocated. It supplies the historical context of nursing in shaping policy and the transformative changes that will result from the enactment of health care reform. This information is important as students learn about the roles they will play as nurses and as concerned citizens.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Define the roles of patients, providers, and funding sources as fundamental to understanding the complexities of the current health care system and examine if reform is needed.
2. Discuss the implications of health care policy on issues related to access, equity, quality, and cost.
3. Examine the impact of limited access to care by the uninsured, underinsured, and vulnerable populations such as infants, children, and older adults.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Small-Group or Individual Writing Assignment

Purpose: To provide students with the opportunity to design a health system that addresses a specific health care problem and implements a significant component of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Instructions: For this assignment, students may incorporate Box 13-2, “Six Drivers of High Performance Health Care Systems” into their responses.

1. Choose a health care problem.
2. Choose a community, or select an age group most impacted by the problem.
3. Design a Medical Home (Health Home) for patients identified in #2.
4. Who is the current primary care provider and why?
5. Who is the primary care provider in your Medical Home (Health Home) and why?
6. What specialists currently are needed, and what is the accessibility?
7. How will specialists be handled in your Medical Home (Health Home)?
8. How is access to medical information currently handled?

9. How will you ensure that clients have easy access to medical information in your Medical Home (Health Home)?
10. How will you inform the community about your Medical Home (Health Home)?
11. Who are the stakeholders you need to get on board?
12. What opposition do you project will occur with the opening of the Medical Home (Health Home)?

Evaluation Criteria

You will be graded on the following criteria:

- 1) Your choice of a health care problem.....20 points
- 2) Your ability to choose a community or select an age group most impacted by the problem.....20 points
- 3) Your creativity to design a Medical Home (Health Home) for patients identified in #2 and to determine the following:40 points
 - The current primary care provider and why you identified that person
 - The primary care provider you select for Medical Home (Health Home) and why
 - The specialists currently needed and the accessibility to the specialists
 - How the specialists will be handled in your Medical Home (Health Home)
 - How the access to medical information is currently handled
 - How you will ensure that clients have easy access to medical information in your Medical Home (Health Home)
- 4) Your ability to engage the community by determining the following:40 points
 - How you will inform the community about your Medical Home (Health Home)
 - The stakeholders you need to get on board
 - The opposition you project to opening the Medical Home (Health Home)

Writing Assignment:

Purpose: To provide students with experience to reflect on their personal views related to the role of government and access to care for the uninsured.

Instructions: Students are to write an essay in agreement or opposition to the following:

“It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.”

Hubert H. Humphrey, United States politician (1911-1978)

1. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. State your reasons based on your knowledge of the health care system, observations in the clinical area, and personal experience. Justify your responses with appropriate resources.

Evaluation Criteria

You will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Your ability to state a position and explain the reason for the choice....30 points

2. Your ability to demonstrate an understanding of the relevance of the quote to the role of government and access to care for the uninsured.....40 points
3. Your ability to organize your thoughts and complete a well written, clear, and readable paper with justification.....30 points

Group Assignment:

Purpose: To provide students with the opportunity to explore a current health legislative issue that relates to a health disparity at the state or national level.

Instructions: The student is expected to perform a thorough search of the literature, the media, and discussions with stakeholders such as legislators, consumers, and other health care professionals about a current health legislative issue. Students will participate on a panel that will present the following areas or the selected health issue:

1. What is the current legislative or regulatory issue, and why is it being debated?
2. Who is most affected by the legislation?
3. What are the current socioeconomic, political, cultural, and ethical issues surrounding this topic?
4. Who are the stakeholders?
5. What are the positions of professional health care organizations (ANA, AHA, AMA), consumers, and the major political parties on the issue?
6. What are the implications of the policy issue for nursing?

Evaluation Criteria

You will be graded on your ability to respond to the following questions in a comprehensive manner that demonstrates an understanding of the legislative process as part of a panel discussion that focuses on the selected health disparity and the implications of the policy for nursing.

1. What is the current legislative or regulatory issue, and why is it being debated?.....10 points
2. Who is most affected by the legislation?10 points
3. What are the current socioeconomic, political, cultural, and ethical issues surrounding this topic?.....10 points
4. Who are the stakeholders?.....5 points
5. What are the positions of professional health care organizations (ANA, AHA, AMA), consumers, the major political parties, and nurses on the issue?.....10 points
6. What are the implications of the policy issue for nursing?.....15 points
7. Participation on the panel.....20 points
8. Clarity, organization of the presentation.....20 points

Optional Assignment

Writing Assignment

Purpose: To provide the opportunity for students to select an area of interest and apply the knowledge about health care delivery and financing to their clinical practice, experience, and knowledge.

Instructions: Step 1: Student may select one of the following chapters:

Chapter 34: Taking Action: Setting Health Care in Its Social Context

Chapter 35: Taking Action: Reimbursement Issues for Nurse Anesthetists: A Continuing Challenge

Step 2: Answer the following questions:

1. Why did you select the chapter?
2. What did you learn about the role of the nurse as an activist?
3. What problems were encountered?
4. Would you have approached the problem differently? If so, how? If not, why not?
5. What did you learn from the chapter about health care delivery and financing?
6. Would you suggest another policy as an outcome? If yes, what would it be? If not, why not?

Evaluation Criteria

You will be graded on your ability to apply the knowledge from the chapters in Unit 2:

Health Care Delivery and Financing by answering the following questions:

1. Why did you select the chapter?.....10 points
2. What did you learn about the role of the nurse as an activist?.....15 points
3. What problems were encountered?.....15 points
4. Would you have approached the problem differently? If so, how? If not, why not?
.....25 points
5. What did you learn from the chapter about health care delivery and financing?
.....20 points
6. Would you suggest another policy as an outcome? If yes, what would it be? If not, why not?.....15 points