

Basic Concepts II Aging, Health Care, and Society

1. Which of the following is the most prevalent chronic disease of old age?
*A) Arthritis
B) Osteoporosis
C) Parkinson's disease
D) Cancer
E) Cardiovascular disease

2. _____ is the chief government program that pays for health care for older Americans.
A) Medicaid
*B) Medicare
C) Social Security
D) The Older Americans Act
E) None of the above

3. Medicare covers about _____ percent of the out-of-pocket medical expenses of older people.
A) 10
B) 25
*C) 50
D) 80
E) 100

4. _____ refers to the private health insurance policies that older people may purchase to supplement their Medicare coverage.
A) Medicaid
B) Medicare Part A
C) Medicare Part B
*D) Medigap
E) Prospective payment policies

5. The majority of Medicare dollars go to which of the following?
A) Nursing homes
*B) Hospitals
C) Physicians
D) Home health agencies
E) None of the above

6. In 1983, Congress responded to the high costs of hospital care under Medicare Part A by introducing _____.

- A) the resource-based relative value scale
 - B) the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
 - C) Medigap policies
 - *D) the prospective payment system
 - E) None of the above
7. The lowest rate of suicide in the United States occurs among which of the following groups?
- A) Younger black men
 - B) Older black men
 - C) Young white men
 - D) Older white men
 - *E) None of the above
8. Among all people over age 65, about _____ percent are in nursing homes at any given time.
- *A) 5
 - B) 10
 - C) 24
 - D) 40
 - E) 50
9. A multidimensional functional assessment involves which of the following?
- A) A thorough physical exam
 - B) A full examination of physical, mental, and social conditions
 - C) An older adult's economic and social resources
 - D) Both A and C
 - *E) Both B and C
10. The highest rate of suicide in the United States occurs among which of the following groups?
- A) Younger black men
 - B) Older black men
 - C) Young white men
 - *D) Older white men
 - E) Older white women
11. Precursors of late life suicide include which of the following?
- A) Loneliness and social isolation
 - B) Diminished economic resources
 - C) The presence of illness or disability
 - D) Depression
 - *E) All of the above

12. What percentage of older adults surveyed in multiple studies conducted by AARP say that they'd prefer to remain in their own homes and "age in place"?

- A) 50%
- *B) 90%
- C) 100%
- D) 25%
- E) None of the above

13. Evidence from biology indicates that maximum life span is genetically determined and thus fixed for each species.

- *A) True
- B) False

14. Aging is not a life-long process but something that only happens after maturity.

- A) True
- *B) False

15. The majority of people over age 65 need assistance with activities of daily living.

- A) True
- *B) False

16. Today, older people are more likely to die from infectious diseases, such as influenza or pneumonia, than from chronic diseases, such as heart disease or cancer.

- A) True
- *B) False

17. Chronic illness is much more common among the old than among the young.

- *A) True
- B) False

18. Dementia is characteristic of normal aging.

- A) True
- *B) False

19. It is thought that both genetic and environmental factors contribute to Alzheimer's disease.

- *A) True
- B) False

20. Once someone is admitted to a nursing home, he or she is likely to remain there for the rest of his or her life.

- A) True
- *B) False

21. Advances in medical technology are largely responsible for the large drop in mortality rates that occurred at the beginning of the 20th century.

- A) True
- *B) False

22. Two-thirds of all dementias are of the Alzheimer's type.

- *A) True
- B) False

23. The term *long-term care* covers health care and social services for those who extensive help with daily life because of a chronic illness or condition.

- *A) True
- B) False

24. Declines in mortality rates always lead to declines in morbidity rates.

- A) True
- *B) False

25. Long-term care costs are projected to increase dramatically in the 21st century.

- *A) True
- B) False

26. Only a small percentage of those over age 60 report feeling “very confident” or “somewhat confident” about maintaining a high quality of life as they grow older.

- A) True
- *B) False

Type: E

27. How did Jonathan Swift (*Gulliver's Travels*, 1726) characterize the Struldbruggs, and how does this characterization assist in our understanding of the possible implications of population aging?

- *A) Varies

Type: E

28. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the Medicare program. What could be done to strengthen the Medicare program?

- *A) Varies

Type: E

29. Describe the variety of senior housing options that are available today. If you wished to continue living in your own home as long as possible but your health needs were increasing, which option would you prefer? Explain.

- *A) Varies

Type: E

30. How does the concept “continuum of care” assist in our understanding the diverse needs among the older adult population? To what extent is the long-term care service system in the United States a “continuum of care”?

*A) Varies

Type: E

31. Describe the options that are available for dealing with the Struldbrugg problem, that is, a prolonged period of frailty and dependency at the end of life. What are the benefits and drawbacks of each option? Which option would you support, and why?

*A) Varies

Type: E

32. What challenges might our society face with respect to long-term care if all diseases were eliminated?

*A) Varies

33. Many people fear the prospect of having to live in a nursing home. Discuss some reasons for this prevalent fear, whether or not this fear is realistic, and the conditions under which living in such a setting may be appropriate.

*A) Varies