

The Ethical Implications of the Attempts to Reduce H.C. Costs

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Abstract

Purpose: After discussing the high and rising health care costs in the United States, its disparities, and the suggested demand, supply, and managed competition- side strategies to contain health care costs and their ethical implications, the paper explores whether or not these strategies will further aggravate the existing health care disparities.

Design/Methodology: This conceptual paper utilizes the various appropriate exiting economic and ethical theories. The economic and ethical theories utilized are relevant to the problem of rising health care costs, to the proposed demand, supply, and managed competition -side cost containment strategies, and to the existing health care disparities.

Findings: The paper demonstrates that the suggested cost containment strategies do in fact aggravate existing health care inequities and are not always ethical.

Originality /Value: Given the present health care reform debate in the United States and various misconceptions about it , the author believes that the paper and its findings should in fact be viewed a contribution.

Key words: health care costs, health care disparities, demand- side cost containments, supply-side cost containment, ethics of healthcare.