Access to Healthcare

Institution Affiliation

Date

**Introduction**

The aim of the Affordable Care Act which was signed into law in 2010 was to help all Americans access affordable health care through comprehensive insurance reforms. Despite there being huge benefits that came with affordable care act enabling low-income earners to access healthcare, there are still a lot of health problems facing the United States from access to management of this new plan. This has been a major challenge across all states.

**Problems facing Healthcare in America**

First, the implementation of this health care system has received dissenting voices with claims of additional workload and huge costs that are to be covered by medical providers. Secondly, not everyone is insured and these residents seek medical care from community centers and emergency hospitals departments which are not adequate. According to Andersen, Rice and Kominski, (2011), United States residents are likely to forego preventive healthcare medications as compared to their counterparts in high-income countries.

Another problem facing the United States is gaps in health coverage with unhealthy lifestyles forming the major cause of poor health experienced in the U.S. This to some extent associated with health inequality that is widespread in America compared to other developed countries. Due to lack of preventive healthcare, life expectancy is low compared to other countries like France. Enrollment in this health system has also faced challenges with resistance especially from Hispanics and the young adults. The funds used in enrollment campaign are not adequate and there is no a self-sustaining plan in various states (Andersen, et al., 2011).

The universal healthcare is subject to abuse where people seek medical care for non-existent conditions and in turn lead to a burden on the system due to tax. This could lead to rationing of healthcare practices and amenities a problem experienced in countries such as France and the United Kingdom. Another problem that comes with universal healthcare is the elimination of free market. Incentives to ensure enhanced medical solutions and innovation is lacking. Directly, this affects the amount that goes into doctors pockets thus reduced attraction in the medical practice which could lead to a shortage of doctors in the future.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, moving from the old system of health care to universal system is not easy; however, it is a long-term solution that could ensure affordable health care across the racial and demographic population. Affordable healthcare for all saves on administration costs and these funds could be used preventive healthcare. To achieve these objectives, there is much funding that would be required in the initial stages of implementation. The existing system does not work and there needs to be a clear path for shifting from the current system to the universal healthcare system (Andersen, et al., 2011).

References

Andersen, R. M., Rice, T. H., & Kominski, G. F. (2011). Changing the US health care system: Key issues in health services policy and management. John Wiley & Sons.

Huntington, W. V., Covington, L. A., Center, P. P., Covington, L. A., & Manchikanti, L. (2011). Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010: reforming the health care reform for the new decade. Pain Physician, 14(1), E35-E67.