The US Healthcare

Name:

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The US healthcare system is one area that costs the country a lot of funds. The cost of care is high in the US, unlike other developed nations across the globe. With this, there have been reforms to try and reduce the burden of care on citizens in the country. Ideally, health care in the US is offered by different institutions. Notably, health coverage falls under both private and public organizations. Private organizations offer insurances while there are Medicare and Medicaid under the public. Lack of universal healthcare in the US, like in other nations has made the cost of care to be costly, and this has affected its economy adversely. This paper, therefore, will explore the healthcare system in the US from different perspectives in detail.

**Emerging Health Care Law**

The AHCA 2017 is a good example of a bill that is emerging in the US care system. This bill was a major proposal in the year 2017 and is aimed at repealing the popular ACA. This bill is yet to be passed, but it is an emerging bill that the US President Donald Trump wants to use to change the healthcare sector in the country. This pending bill will have a massive impact on the nursing practice (Fiedler, Aaron, Adler & Ginsburg, 2017). For example, AHCA seeks to cut Medicaid funding and weaken the sustainability of Medicare. This will affect the nursing practice in that health professionals will not be able to provide care to patients as expected. With a cut in funding of Medicaid and increased premiums for seniors, this will restrict many people from getting healthcare services. As such, the nursing practice will have to abide by the new rules to offer care to patients who meet the requirements of AHCA. Additionally, the reduction of the sustainability of Medicare and the cut of funding for Medicaid will mean that many citizens will not be able to access care like before. As such, the duties of nurses will be adversely affected (Fiedler, Aaron, Adler & Ginsburg, 2017). Also, a reduction in subsidy of Medicaid will mean that nurses will not be able to provide care to every patient because of inadequate resources.

**Quality Measures and Pay for Performance (P4P)**

Outcomes are affected by both P4P practice and quality measures. Notably, quality measures are utilized to measure outcomes, processes as well as the patient perception of a healthcare institution (Burstin, Leatherman & Goldmann, 2016). P4P is a payment method in which care workers and hospitals are remunerated depending on how they meet performance measures in a specific time frame. These two concepts affect patient outcomes positively. For example, when there are proper quality measures taken in a healthcare organization, it becomes easy to assess how a healthcare organization works, how patients receive care, and their view of the care they get. This way, it becomes easy to streamline any problem arising from the healthcare institution to promote effective and quality care to patients. The result of this is a better patient outcome.

 When it comes to P4P, it also affects positively outcomes of patietns. For instance, this mode of payment forces both health care professionals and healthcare institutions to do their best to meet the performance measures set (Mendelson et al., 2017). This is because they are paid according to how they have performed. With this, it means that health professionals will become more dedicated to their work while healthcare institutions will also avail the required resources so that the entire team can perform better to meet the performance measures hence better pay. With this, health practitioners will offer quality care to patients and even do follow-ups to make sure that the patients are getting better. This way, patients’ outcome is affected positively by P4P.

P4P and quality measures affect the nursing practice by increasing its effectiveness care provided to clients. This is because when there are quality measures in a healthcare organization, employees will be scrutinized to make sure that they work according to the expectations. Also, pay for performance method ensures that both hospitals and health professionals do meet the performance expectations before being paid. This also increases the effectiveness and quality of care in a healthcare organization. In the above situations, nurses are expected to do their roles of providing care to patients without thinking about the payment methods or quality measures (Burstin, Leatherman & Goldmann, 2016). In fact, these are only aimed at improving the care that nurses offer to patients. Nurses are, therefore, are expected to work hard to meet the performance measures set. They are not expected to complain because it is their role to work hard and provide the best care to patients. As such, they are expected to abide by any control and performance measures to improve the quality of care service.

**Professional Nursing Leadership and Management Roles**

Nursing leadership and management roles that have emerged are critical in addressing emerging trends as well as promoting quality care and patient safety. Notably, there are many roles of nursing leaders and managers in the contemporary nursing environment. For example, leaders and managers in a healthcare institution today are expected to fulfill the vision and mission of the organization, lead strategic changes, sets and uphold standards in a healthcare organization, treatment planning and create educational plans, among other roles (Cherry & Jacob, 2016). From the above roles, a leader or manager in a care setting is supposed to make sure that one comes up with plans aimed at achieving the vision and mission of a healthcare organization. Besides, one is expected to ensure that the organization abides by the established standards as well as employees. This helps to address issues of patient safety and quality care. For example, in a healthcare institution where the leader or manager does not set up quality measures, it is easy for nurses to risk the lives of patients. Also, educational programs help in training workers to adjust their knowledge to fit emerging trends like the use of EHR, health tracking apps, and AI. With the above-mentioned roles, it has become easy to address emerging trends in health as well as provide quality care hence offering patient safety.

**Emerging Trends**

There are several emerging trends in the healthcare sector. For example, there is the use of electronic health records, individualized medicine, telehealth, and integrative medicine (Orji, & Moffatt, 2018). Because of the emerging trends in healthcare, the nursing practice and nursing roles will change in the next five years to respond to the emerging trends. For example, nurses will have to acquire technological education so that they can use information technology devices in their profession. Also, the nursing profession will change in that provision of care will become more diverse, where health practitioners will be the one moving to rural areas to offer care to patients. This will require nurses to be more flexible. Ultimately, the health sector is changing, and in the near future, quality of care provided to patients will be streamlined by new trends.

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