

Healthcare Services Utilization

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Introduction

Human beings use health care services for various purposes including; treatment of various diseases, reducing pain in the body, for a better quality of life and preventing themselves from diseases. The utilization of health care can be classified into various categories comprising; suitable or unsuitable, and expensive or cheap. According to Bhandari and Wagner, (2006) the trends in health care utilization are meant to provide useful information that will be used in projecting the future medical expenses and needs. Health care utilization has significantly advanced as the people's needs in health care have also changed over time.

Public and Private Health Care

The private healthcare sector delivers efficiently in low and middle-income earning countries than the public healthcare would offer its services. However, the public healthcare sector is argued to provide more reasonable and evidence-based care. The performance in the private healthcare sector is of quality, equality and is more efficient as compared to the public healthcare sector. According to Bhandari and Wagner (2006), the private sector offers quality services as they offer enough consultation time to their patients and privacy is enhanced as compared to public health care. However, when it comes to the treatment rates the public health care has higher treatment rates for diseases like tuberculosis as compared to the private healthcare sector. The public and private health sectors have some links between, and they can have some effect on each other's performance and to some extent their structure. For example, the policies made by the public sector will significantly affect the private sector because it also has its policies.

Utilization of Health Care Services

From the year 2016 to 2017 the overall expenditure in healthcare grew by 5.4 percent, which was attributed to the increased use of the services. The trend in growth of health care jobs is one of the most important signals that has affected the trends in utilization. As technology has been enhanced and the development of new services, there has also been the change in labor productivity especially in the health sector which increases the fraction of services to jobs. Redondo-Sendino, Guallar-Castillón, Banegas and Rodríguez-Artalejo, (2006) noted that when there is growth in population health models and the available drivers to the healthcare environment, there will be an increase in the clinic walls. The availability of modernized, timely and comprehensive data on the utilization of health care will reduce the spending and the prices of health care services.

Factors that influence Health Care services utilization

Some elements will enhance and encourage additional use of services while others will deter the utilization of the healthcare services. Redondo-Sendino, et.al, (2006) implied that some factors are meant to affect the individual only. For instance, the recommendation of excessive preventive services to a person while others will mostly influence the total number of people.

Factors that may decrease health care services utilization

The decline in the supply of healthcare services for example, the influx number of retiring employees in the hospital and closing of the hospital greatly impacts health care services utilization. A factor could be the advancement of the public health and its sanitation by the provision of good and quality of food and proper distribution of water. Educating and making patients understand the risk factors causing diseases and making them aware of preventives such

as prevention of drug addiction. Change in the patients or consumers preferences for example if there is an alternative type of medicine to take.

Factors that may increase health care services utilization

If there is a growth in population and an increase in the older adults in the country because there will be an increase in the aging diseases, which will be associated with their death. According to Bhandari and Wagner (2006) availability and increase in the supply of health services like assisting the residents living in the area may increase health care services utilization. Introduction of new methods and enhancement of modern technology in the healthcare sector, in addition to, entry of new diseases in the environment such HIV/AIDS which will require new and surplus materials for their treatment for increasing health care services utilization.

Health Care Services

Health care services divisions are meant to provide an access and overview to the appropriate and required services by the population in the area of services. From their survey Gaskin, Dinwiddie, Chan, and McCleary, (2012) noted that these services are unlimited to the hospitals, and they include pharmacy services, dental services, vision services among others. For the primary healthcare services, they are usually provided by specialized personnel, especially in the private sectors. The primary healthcare services include; outpatient medical treatment, immunization, diagnostic services and health education. For hospital services, institutions are usually opened for 24 hours especially for the private sector healthcare sector. Furthermore, for the public sector, the patients are given a right to choose the ward accommodation they feel comfortable with during their admission.

Quality Health Care

Quality health care is when the patient does the right thing as he is expected to, doing it at the right time, the correct way and having good results which are getting better. The doctors can help the patient achieve a quality health care by not only treating them and looking after them but also educating them on how to live healthily (Gaskin, et.al, 2012).

Equitable and affordable access to healthcare utilization

The peoples' income usually determines the equitability and affordability to health services and being insured to the Affordable Care Act (Redondo-Sendino, et.al, 2006). Adults who earn a high income in other nations are ranked last in the United States in access to healthcare facilities.

Trends in utilization of healthcare services

One of the trends in utilization of health care services is the overall use of the health services where it has significant indicators which show how services move from one site to another. According to (Bhandari and Wagner, 2006) Offering appointments to the primary care so that they can be addressed on the necessary medical services by the clinicians. When the physician office pays visits for the general medical exams, this helps them in explaining the utilization disparities in healthcare.

References

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