Chapter 10: Health Care Settings and Technology (hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, home health) The Sociology of Health, illness, and Health Care

What do you know about the history of hospitals?

Did they always have an excellent reputation, known for their high technology?

Early 20th Century Hospitals

- Initially, hospitals were the <u>place</u> <u>people went to die</u>, so people didn't want to go to the hospital
- With the <u>discoveries</u> of <u>anesthesia</u> <u>and antibiotics</u>, hospitals became more successful in curing people
- # of hospitals grew from 178 in 1873 to 5000 in 1923
- hospitals provided <u>medical education</u> and <u>research</u> in addition to medical care

Hospitals in the 1960s

huge expansion in numbers of hospitals due to <u>influx of funds</u> from federal government and states

What government programs were created that provided hospitals with lots of money?

- Medicare: Has several "Parts".
 Part A was created to fund
 hospital care for the elderly and
 disabled—funded by federal
 gov't and users
- Medicaid created to fund hospital and all other medical care for the poor. Combination of federal and state funding.

What changes were made regarding how much money the government paid to hospitals?

(hint: DRGs)

DRGs (diagnostically related groups) were created so now hospitals get paid a specific amount for a specific procedure.

Prior to DRGs, the hospital could charge the government for days the patient didn't need to be in the hospital.

Hospitals Today

- lack of "person-centered" care within the hospital due to desire of hospitals to keep to strict schedules and routines
- more emphasis on <u>out-patient care</u> since the DRGs are generally not used by the government to set prices for out-patient care

What is an example of "out-patient" surgery?

How does "out-patient" surgery differ from "in-patient" surgery?

The Growth of Nursing Homes in the U.S. (i.e., long-term care)

Do you know anyone living in a NH?

Any guesses why the number of NHs grew very fast in the late 1960s?

The History of Nursing Homes (i.e., long-term care)

- NHs initially provided <u>custodial</u> and some <u>medical care</u> to persons who had no families to assist them.
- With the introduction of Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s, the # of NHs grew rapidly (currently about 1.4 million Americans live in 16,000 NHs). The government quickly found itself overwhelmed in NH costs.

Can a person receiving Medicare use it to pay for their nursing home stay until they die?

What about Medicaid?

What has the government done
to reduce the number of
persons living in NHs?
(hint: activities of daily living or
ADLs)

What factors affect the quality of nursing home care?

Source of the nursing home's funds to run the nursing home

- Number and quality of staff
 - Cleanliness of building
 - Person-centered care

What are the demographic characteristics of those living in a NH2 the elderly, women, the poor

How do people pay for nursing home care? What is the problem with how it is paid for?

People generally pay out-of-pocket, that is, they use their savings, Social Security, and pension (if they have one).

NH care costs on average \$7-\$9,000/month

<u>People eventually run out of money</u> if they live long enough.

Then they can apply for Medicaid to pay for their NH but Medicaid only pays the NH roughly \$5,000/month so the NH can ask the person to leave What about nursing home insurance (also called long-term care insurance)? Does it exist and how helpful is it?

NH/long-term care insurance exists but it is largely unreliable—these insurance companies have tended to go out of business

Why are NHs the most regulated industry in the U.S.?

What are some of the professional jobs in NHs?

Administrator, Social Worker, Director of Nursing, RNs, LVNs, Nurse Aides

Why would someone want to work in a NH?

an opportunity to get paid for helping others

Why is the turnover rate of nurse aides so high?

NHs are often understaffed leaving little time for staff to give residents personal attention. Also low pay.

Do NHs vary in quality and, if so, how and why?

- NHs that house mostly Medicaid paying residents have far less money to provide a "quality" living environment than do those that house wealthy persons.
- NH residents were at one time drugged and/or strapped to chairs/beds, etc. for ease of care.
- Today there is a push for "personcentered" care.

What is Hospice?

- health care provided to persons who are near death, with the purpose of keeping the person physically comfortable, often in their homes?
- rather than giving person invasive, painful treatments (e.g., chemotherapy for cancer) that will do no good because the person is too near death, the focus is on keeping the person comfortable until she/he dies.
- Medicare will cover the cost of hospice for six months (Medicare assumes with a terminal illness will not live longer than 6 months).

People who qualify for hospice, are expected to die soon.

Should people be allowed to commit suicide? What are reasons for and against?

suicide is legal in the U.S.; people are most accepting of suicide in cases where the person is mentally competent, incurably ill and suffering intolerable pain.

Can you provide an example of someone who was in this situation (incurably ill, suffering intolerable pain?)

Should people be allowed to assist those who want to commit suicide (i.e., euthanasia or assisted-suicide or physician-assisted suicide)?

- some say yes, for someone who is mentally competent, incurably ill and suffering intolerable pain. It's a humanitarian thing to do.
- some say no, euthanasia is merely another word for murder. Euthanasia is a way of avoiding the responsibility of taking care of the sick and disabled.

Is anyone familiar with home health care services?

There seem to be two types, what might they be? (hint: involves payment)

■ Paid caregiving in the home

■ Caregiving by family members and friends is common (29% of U.S. adults) with women, the poor, and minorities most likely to become caregivers.

What are the costs and benefits of caregiving (e.g., providing care to a sick loved one)?

- <u>benefits</u>: caring for a loved one can be psychologically rewarding; assists the person to recover.
- costs: emotional exhaustion; financial, social, physical costs, including relationships with friends. Can cause depression when efforts can't stop the inevitable.

What is respite care?

Do you know anyone who receives or provides respite care?

What is respite care?

- Eases the burden of caregiving by providing the caregiver with a break from caregiving. Allows the caregiver to have some time to her/his self.
- Can be paid for by government programs funded through the Older Americans Act. However, funds are limited so there are wait lists.
- Home health aides are sometimes hired to provide respite care including assistance with bathing, dressing and light house work.

Money driven medicine (2:49):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOa_nbMEbr4

U.S. Health Care Costs Keep Rising | Money and Medicine |
Documentary Central
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7kaJMDD9kQ

This could be why you're depressed or anxious | Johann
Hari (20 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB5IX-np5fE

Marine biologist weighs in on the farmed salmon vs wild
salmon debate (11 min)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mfp-OAalwdc

https://www.y =7TmcXYp8xu4 Are GMOs good or bad? https://articles.mercola.com/videos.aspx (describes problem with GMOs, large companies manipulate the data to conclude the GMOs are safe; Dr. Fagan's lab is independent of large food companies; 6:30) https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=323&v =bA8dCPr5pXI Recent study on GMOs https://articles.mercola.com/videos.aspx Scientific Problem with GMOs https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bco7rPyKwec Genetically modified Samon https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH4bi60alZU Are GMOs bad? www.mercola.com (lists variety of films available)

Listening to shame | Brené Brown (20 mins)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psN1DORYYV0

Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong (15 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PY9DcIMGxMs

This could be why you're depressed or anxious | Johann Hari (20 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB5IX-np5fE

DISABILITY: How You See Yourself (3 mins)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwW6mYdJ7Xc

■Film: Sicko (produced in 2007)
(1st 30 minutes)
■https://vimeo.com/76646445