

THE HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Brandeis University
Waltham, MA 02454

HS 5.13A ISSUES IN NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

Fall Semester, 2008
Tuesdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Heller School, Classroom Altman Amphitheater, G01

Stuart H. Altman, Ph.D.
Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy
Stanley S. Wallack, Ph.D.
Professor and Executive Director – Schneider Institutes for Health Policy

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Professor Stanley S. Wallack: wallack@brandeis.edu **Tuesday, 1:30-4:30 p.m.**
Professor Stuart Altman: altman@brandeis.edu

Teaching Assistants: Jenna Sirkin (jsirkin@brandeis.edu)

Office hours by appointment. Contact Wendy Colnon at colnon@brandeis.edu

This course will survey and analyze the health care system in the United States, emphasizing the major issues and trends, which have made the subject of intense public concern. The course will cover the financing, delivery and payment of health care by both the public and private sectors. The course will discuss the reasons for the large number of Americans with no or inadequate health insurance, the lack of and disparities in access to care, the high level of health care costs, as well as quality problems. An important aspect of the course will be to discuss past, present and potential solutions to improve the performance of the U.S. health system, including a discussion of the perspectives of the 2008 Presidential candidates.

Because the seminar will concentrate mostly on new and emerging issues, it is difficult to construct a reading list which is both up-to-date and comprehensive, and yet, concentrated in a limited number of publications. To partly overcome these problems, we will supply copies of selected articles and statistical summaries that are available on LATTE. Also, the * starred readings are optional. We will also supply a weekly handout that will also be uploaded onto LATTE.

Course Requirements:

One paper of an analytic nature on a specific health policy issue addressed in the course. The paper should be a policy analysis paper rather than a research or survey paper; discussing the health care problem, the reasons for the problem and potential solutions. It should be kept short, about 12-to-15 pages (double-spaced).

PAPER DUE: November 25th

FINAL EXAM: In class, December 16th

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have reasonable accommodation made for you in class, please see me (the instructor) immediately.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND READING PACKET (see LATTE)

Healthcare Policy: The Basics, The Access Project, John E. McDonough, Dr. P.H., 1999.
(Read free at <http://www.accessproject.org> also on LATTE)

Coverage Matters: Insurance and Health Care (2001), Institute of Medicine.
(Read free on Latte under required readings)

Medicare Reform, The Basics, A Century Foundation Guide to the Issues, pp 1-38, (Century Foundation Press, New York City, 2001).
(Read free at <http://www.medicarewatch.org/publications.asp?pubid=531> also on LATTE)

Medicare Chart Book, prepared by H.L. Komisar, J.A. Reuter, J. Feder (all of Institute for Health Care Research and Policy/Georgetown University), and P. Neuman (Kaiser), Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Second Edition Fall 2001.
(Read free at <http://kff.org/medicare/1622-index.cfm> also on Latte)

For any students with little or no background on the U.S. health system, it is recommended that you read Healthcare Policy: The Basics within the first two weeks of the class.

I. OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION: The Uninsured

- Healthcare Policy: the Basics, Part I. (Also available at <http://accessproject.org>).
- “The Uninsured and Their Access to Health Care” Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheets, October 2006.
- “The Uninsured: A Primer, The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured,” Kaiser Foundation, October 2006.
- Coverage Matters: Insurance and Health Care, Institute of Medicine 2001.

II. FINANCING: Medicaid and SCHIP -- Public Financing for the Poor and Children

- Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), The Medicaid Program at a Glance.
- J. Holahan, A. Weil and J. Weiner, “Which Way for Federalism and Health Policy?” *Health Affairs Web Exclusive*, 2003.
- P. Cunningham, SCHIP Making Progress: Increased Take-Up Contributes to Coverage Gains, *Health Affairs*, 22(4):163-172, Jul/Aug 2003.
- T. Coughlin and S. Zuckerman, State Responses to New Flexibility in Medicaid, *The Millbank Quarterly*, 86,2, pp. 209-240.
- Medicaid’s Role for Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries – Jan. 30, 2002 R. Kronick and T. Gilmer, “Insuring Low Income Adults: Does Public Coverage Crowd Out Provider?” *Health Affairs*, 21(1):225-239, Jan/Feb 2002
- KFF, States Moving towards Comprehensive Reform, July 3, 2008.

III. FINANCING OF HEALTH CARE: Private Health Insurance

- P. Starr, Chapter 2: The Triumph of Accommodation, in the Social Transformation of American Medicine, Basic Books, 1982.
- R. Miller and H. Luft, “HMO Plan Performance Update An Analysis of Recently Published Literature (1997-2000)” Prepared for the Council on the Economic Impact of Health System Change, Eighth Princeton Conference, May 2001. Web site: <http://council.brandeis.edu> (under publications) for slide presentation and additional information from the Eighth Princeton Conference select drop down “Managed Care 5/01.”
- J. C. Robinson, “The End of Managed Care,” *JAMA*, 285(20):2622-2628, May 23/30, 2001.
- R. Hurley, B. Strunk and J. White, “The Puzzling Popularity of the PPOs” *Health Affairs*, 23(2):56-68, April, 2004.
- J. White, “Markets and Medical Care: The United States, 1993-2005, *The Millbank Quarterly*, 85 (3):395-448.

IV. THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM AND THE NEED FOR MORE INTEGRATED CARE

- T. Bodenheimer, K. Grumbach, Understanding Health Policy A Clinical Approach, Second Edition, “How Health Care is Organized-II, Chapter 7: 97-113.
- IOM, Crossing the Quality Chasm, A New Health System for the 21st Century, Chapter 1, “A New Health System for the 21st Century, pp. 23-38.
- J. C. Robinson, L. P. Casalino, “Vertical Integration and Organizational Networks in Health Care,” *Health Affairs*, pp. 7-22, (1996).
- F. Crosson, “The Delivery System Matters,” *Health Affairs*, 24 (6)1543-48, Nov/Dec 2005.
- A, Mehrotra et al “Do Integrated Medical Groups Provide Higher-Quality Medical Care than IPAs?” *Annals of Internal Medicine*, v. 145 (11)826-833, Dec. 2006.
- K. Davis, Schoenbaum, S., Audet, A. “A 2020 Vision of Patient Centered Primary Care” *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 2005, 20:953-957.
- E. Fisher, D. Staiger, J. Bynum and D. Gottlieb, “Creating Accountable Care Organizations: The Extended Hospital Medical Staff, *Health Affairs*, 2007, 26, w44-w-57.
 * L. P. Casalino, H. Pham, G. Bazzoli, “Growth of Single Specialty Medical Groups,” *Health Affairs*, 23(2):82-90, Mar/Apr 2004.
 *J. Mitchell, “Utilization Changes Following Market Entry by Physician-owned Specialty Hospitals,” *Medical Care Research and Review*, 2007.

V./VI. MEDICARE AND MEDICARE REFORM

- Medicare a Primer, March 2007, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.
- Medicare Chart Book, prepared by H.L. Komisar, J.A. Reuter, J. Feder (all of Institute for Health Care Research and Policy/Georgetown University), and P. Neuman (Kaiser), Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Second Edition Fall 2001.
(Read free at <http://kff.org/medicare/1622-index.cfm> also on LATTE)
- M. Moon, Medicare Now and In the Future, Chapters 2, 9
- Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, March 2008 Report to Congress (MedPac): Chapter 3, “Medicare Advantage Plans and Special Needs Plans.
- “Medicare Prescription Drug Law” – March 2004, The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation. <http://www.kff.org/docs/sections.factsheets.htm>
- MedPac Report March 2008, p. 7-22.
- Medicare Reform, The Basics, A Century Foundation Guide to the Issues, pp 1-53, (Century Foundation Press, New York City, 2001).
(Read free at <http://www.tcf.org>)

VII. HOSPITALS AND PAYING FOR CARE

- M. Moon, Medicare Now and In the Future, Chapter 3, p. 41-62.
- P. Ginsburg, “Can Hospitals And Physicians Shift The Effects Of Cuts In Medicare Reimbursement to Private Payers?” *Health Affairs Web Exclusives*, Oct. 2003, p. W3-472-W3-479.
- L. Casalino, K. Devers and L. Brewster, “Focused Factories? Physician-Owned Specialty Facilities,” *Health Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2003, 22(6):56-67.
- C. Tompkins et al, “The Precarious Pricing System for Hospital Services” *Health Affairs*, 25(1):45-56, Jan/Feb, 2006.
- S. Altman, “Could U.S. Hospitals Go The Way of U.S. Airlines? A “Darth Vader” Scenario,” 2005.

VIII. HEALTH CARE REFORM: Expanding Coverage and Controlling Spending and The Presidential Election

To be provided

IX. PHYSICIAN SUPPLY AND PAYMENT

- R. A. Cooper, “Weighing the Evidence for Expanding Physician Supply,” *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 141;705-714, 2004. (www.annals.org)
 - U. Reinhardt, “Dreaming the American Dream: Once More Around On Physician Workforce Policy,” *Health Affairs*, 21(5):28-32, Sep/Oct, 2002.
 - J. Laditka, et al, “More May Be Better: Evidence of a Negative Relationship between Physician Supply and Hospitalization for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions, Health Services Research” 40(4):1148-1166, August 2005.
 - Burney et al, “Medicare Physician Payment, Participation and Reform”, *Health Affairs*, 3(4):5-24, Winter 1984.
 - W. Hsaio et al, “The Resource Based Relative Value Scale: Toward the Development of an Alternative Payment System”, *JAMA*, 258 (6):799-802, August 14, 1987.
 - S. Guterman, “Medicare Physician Payment: Are We Getting What We Pay for? Are We Paying for What We Want”, Testimony to Energy and Commerce Committee, July 25, 2006.
- *H. Pham, et al, “Financial Pressures Spur Physician Practice,” *Health Affairs*, 23(2):70-81, Mar/Apr 2004.

X. TECHNOLOGY AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- J. Newhouse, “Medical Care Costs. How Much Welfare Loss?” *Journal of Electronic Perspectives*, 6(3), Summer 1992.
 - C. Thomas, S. Wallack, et al, “Impact Of Health Plan Design And Management On Retirees’ Prescription Drug Use And Spending, 2001,” *Health Affairs Web Exclusive*, Dec. 4, 2002.
 - D. Cutler, G. Long, E. Berndt, J. Royer, A. Fournier, A. Sasser, P. Cremieux, “The Value of Antihyperintensive Drugs: A Perspective on Medical Innovation” *Health Affairs*, 26(1), 97-110, January/February 2007.
 - G. Wilensky, “Developing A Center for Comparative Effectiveness Information” *Health Affairs*, 25(6):w572-585, Nov/Dec 2006.
 - S. Tunis, “A Clinical Research Strategy to Support Shared Decision Making, *Health Affairs* 24(1):180-184, Jan/Feb 2005.
- *L. Baker, H. Birnbaum, et al, “The Relationship Between Technology Availability and Health Care Spending,” *Health Affairs, Web Exclusives*, Jul/Dec 2003, pp.W3-352.
- *Web References: www.phrma.org.

XI. INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

- G. F. Anderson, U. Reinhardt, P. Hussey & V. Petrosyan, "It's The Prices, Stupid: Why The U.S. Is So Different From Other Countries," *Health Affairs*, 22(3):89-105, May/June 2003.
- G. F. Anderson, et al, "Health Spending in the United States and the Rest of the Industrialized World," *Health Affairs*, 24(4):903-914, Jul/Aug 2005.
- Health Care Systems In Transition: United Kingdom and Germany.
- T. Cheng and U. Reinhardt, "Shepherding Major Health Systems Reforms: A Conversation with German Health Minister Ulla Schmidt," *Health Affairs*, 27(3):W204-W213, May/June 2008.
- Yip, "The Health Care Systems of China and India: System Performance and Future Challenges," *Health Affairs*, 27(4):921-932, Jul/Aug 2008.

XII. HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES: What is Quality and Disparities by Area, Economic Class and Race

What is Quality

- D. Blumenthal, "Part 1: Quality of Care - What is it?" *New England Journal of Medicine*, 335(12):891-893, Sep 19, 1996.
- R. Brook, E. McGlynn, and P. Cleary, "Part 2: Measuring Quality of Care," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 335(13):966-970, Sep 26, 1996.
- M. Chassin, "Part 3: Improving the Quality of Care," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 335(14):1060-1063, Oct 3, 1996.
- E. McGlynn, "The Quality of Health Care Delivered to Adults in the U.S.," *New England Journal of Medicine*. 348(26):2635, Jun 26, 2003.

Access Disparities by Area, Economic Class and Race

- J. D. Reschovsky and A. B. Staiti, "Access and Quality: Does Rural America Lag Behind?" *Health Affairs*, 24(4):1128-1139, July/August 2005.
- D. R. Williams, P. B. Jackson, "Social Sources Of Racial Disparities in Health," *Health Affairs*, 24(2):325-334, March/April 2005.
- I. Kawachi, et al, "Health Disparities by Race and Class: Why Both Matter," *Health Affairs*, 24(2):343-352, March/April 2005.
- S. Zuvekas and G. Taliaferro, "Pathways to Access: Health Insurance, the Health Care Delivery System, and Racial/Ethnic Disparities," *Health Affairs*, 22:2 (139-153), Mar/Apr 2003. (See LATTE)

XIII. QUALITY OF CARE AND PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE

- S. Wallack and C. Tompkins, “Realigning Incentives in Fee-For-Service Medicine,” *Health Affairs*, 22(4), Jul/Aug 2003.
 - Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century, Institute of Medicine, pp. 1-38, 2001. (See Latte). Also available at www.nap.edu/openbook/0309072808/html/1.html
 - J. Newhouse, “Why Is There a Quality Chasm?” *Health Affairs*, 21(4):13-25, Jul/Aug 2002.
 - Rewarding Provider Performance: Aligning Incentives in Medicare (Pathways to Quality Health Care Series) Executive Summary: National Academy of Sciences, 2007.
 - A. Epstein et al, “Paying Physicians for High-Quality Care” *New England Journal of Medicine*. 350(4):406, January 22, 2004.
 - M. Rosenthal et al, “Early Experience with Pay-for Performance from Concept to Practice” *JAMA*, 294(14):1788-93, 2005.
 - M. Rosenthal, Landon B., K. Howitt, H. Song, and A. Epstein, “Climbing Up: The Pay-for-Performance Learning Curve; Where are the Early Adopters Now?” *Health Affairs*, 26(6):1674-82, November/December 2007.
- * J. Wennberg, E. Fisher, J. Skinner, K. Bronner, Extending the P4P Agenda, Part 2: “How Medicare Can Reduce Waste and Improve Care for the Chronically Ill,” *Health Affairs*, 26(6):1575-85, November 2007.

**Web Sites Relating to Course
HS513A**

MEDICARE Fact Sheets, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation:
(Read free at <http://kff.org/medicare/upload/1066-10.pdf>)

MEDICAID Fact Sheets, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation:
(Read free at <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7235-02.pdf>)

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, *Employer Health Benefits, 2007 Annual Summary*
(Read free at <http://www.kff.org>)

The Commonwealth Fund, A private foundation working toward a high performance health system. <http://www.cmwf.org>

Institute of Medicine, *America's Health Care Safety Net: Intact but Endangered*. (Read free at <http://www.iom.edu>)

Rand Health | Research Highlights, *State Efforts to Insure the Uninsured: An Unfinished Story*, 2003. (Read free at <http://www.rand.org>)