

Running Head: ROLES OF THE FIVE MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Roles of five major stakeholders the U.S. Health care System

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Introduction

Stakeholders in the healthcare system are the bodies or entities that wholly or partly take part in the activities of a health care system. These entities are characterized by the substantial effects that are brought to them whenever a reform is made to the healthcare system. The bodies which form the major stakeholders in the health systems include the patients, providers, government, payers and the employees. According to Yesalis, Politzer & Holt (2012), these significant stakeholders are obligated with various responsibilities that through them a quality health care delivery system might be attained, and whenever they neglect their responsibility, a direct negative effect is experienced in the healthcare delivery system (Yesalis, Politzer & Holt 2012).

Background of the study

This study explores the various roles that are accorded to the different stakeholders in the healthcare system. It is the expectation of everyone that the hospitals give out services that result in a quick recovery for their patients. This is always achieved in instances whereby all the participants in the healthcare delivery system comply with the roles and duties accorded to them. The roles and responsibilities can be from both the laws of the country or ethics set up to act as guidelines for the healthcare systems. Neglected health care services usually arise from the primary stakeholders; patients, providers, employers, payers and the government in the healthcare system. Jonas, Goldstein & Goldstein (2012) explains that the patients form the greatest stakeholders in the healthcare system. For high-quality health care delivery to be attained, they are the greatest population responsible for this attainment. The United States healthcare system has been poor for a very long time; the greatest fault comes from the fragmentation of the delivery system which leads to low-quality service delivery system in the

country despite the highly skilled professionals in the country. Another cause of poor delivery of healthcare services is the lack of laws that guide the healthcare system. It is the role of the major stakeholders to ensure that there is improved a quality of service that is being delivered in the country (Jonas, Goldstein & Goldstein 2012).

Patients expect the employers to provide them with different options for the services they are being offered at their healthcare centers. They expect these options to be in line with their specific needs. It is also in their expectation that the employer pays for most of their cost of insurance. On the other hand, at all times, the employers want to maintain or reduce their cost of contribution. In this regard, they expect the patients and the providers to seek only the needed care and follow the physician's prescription to the latter. It is also their wish that the patients recover as quickly as possible into maximum utility after receiving services from the health care systems. Therefore, they at all times urge the patients to avoid risky lifestyles that threaten their health (Yesalis, Politzer & Holt 2012).

It is the dream of every provider to give out the best service by the use of the most accurate and newest test and treatments. They also work towards providing preventative care which the payer cannot or may not cover. On the other hand, the payers want the providers, or rather the physicians to be in line with a vivid, evidence-based, diagnostic plan and arrive at an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan with the least amount of tests and visits (Yesalis, Politzer & Holt 2012).

The roles of the government in the U.S. Health care system

The government has a very critical role in the U.S. Health care delivery system. The U.S. government is designed to serve its people. This can all be attained if the citizens are

assured of their well-being not only in security matters, economic endeavors but also health wise. It therefore has to ensure that the country breeds on a high-quality health-care delivery system. This is so because the current health care market cannot be trusted with servicing its clients with access to quality healthcare.

The roles of the government in the quality delivery of healthcare services include purchasing healthcare. The government is supposed to build hospitals and other healthcare centers throughout the country to ensure that even the people in remote areas get access to the services. Secondly, the government should ensure that all the vulnerable populations get access to quality care. By doing this, there will be reduced mortality rate in the nation as a result of diseases (Harrington & Estes 2012). Thirdly, the government should regulate healthcare markets and monitor the quality that is being offered in the market. This will ensure that there are no illegal health care services being carried out in the country and those legally available offer top notch services.

Another role of the government is promoting the attainment of new knowledge by helping healthcare students to get enough knowledge on their course of study. It should also develop the healthcare employees and make sure that they are working in a comfortable environment, and none of them is being victimized. Lastly, the government is mandated with convening all the major stakeholders in the healthcare delivery system (Harrington & Estes 2012).

The roles of the providers in the U.S. Healthcare system

The providers or physicians form another category of the major interested parties in the U.S Healthcare system. They take part in a very key role in making sure that all their patients

get to attain the required healthcare services. Besides ensuring quality care, they also play a role in regulating the rising charges of healthcare delivery. According to Shore & Kupferberg (2011), the physicians are obligated with balancing between their roles of taking care of the patients for the insurance organizations and making sure that they pay the right charges for the services that they receive (Shore & Kupferberg 2011).

Besides, the providers also have responsibilities to patients that are independent of the insurance companies. In this regard, they are responsible for beneficence. This implies that they can do anything that is necessary as long as what is being done will benefit their patients. However, they are not supposed to act independently and claim that they know the best and leaving out the desires of their patients, by acting this way they will be practicing paternalism. Therefore, the doctors and nurses have the responsibility of making sure that their clients wholly participate in decisions that concern their health (Shore & Kupferberg 2011).

The roles of the payers in the U.S. Healthcare system

Payers are those stakeholders who make sure that the scarce financial resources are used accordingly. In this regard, their use must go hand in hand with delivering quality service in the health care centers. Also, their use is expected to bring about a wide access to the required services, the safety of the patients and health care coverage that is affordable to the patients. For this objective to be attained, it is their role to ensure that they have an accurate data that is reliable (In Braithwaite et al. 2015).

Moreover, it is their role to make sure that the payment given for services offered is fair and reflects the kind of the particular service that is being offered. In the recent years, there has been a lot of focus on the service payment and the management of health condition. Little

consideration has been accorded to the quality of diagnosis-based codes based on the payer's perspectives. Therefore, it is their mandate to ensure that this no longer becomes the case. It is the role to make sure that none of them encourages providers to give out less than the particular codes (In Braithwaite et al. 2015).

The roles of the employers in the U.S. Healthcare system

The employers are responsible for both keeping the medical charges down and making sure that the physicians are always at work. In instances whereby the providers have stopped or boycotted working, they are mandated with making sure that they return to work quickly. In this regard, they can take part in playing a critical role in the shaping of the health care's systems delivery. This can be done through direct measures to put into place systems change. Mostly, this has been achieved through their negotiations with health plans and their decisions concerning the configuration of health benefits for their workforce. Therefore, the employers should focus on the rising costs of providing health insurance advantages. Also, they are supposed to make aggressive considerations that will bring about low medical costs or, at least, slow down the rate at which the charges are increasing. Moreover, the employers are obligated with paying their contributions to the health care delivery system (Nash & Goldfarb 2014).

The roles of the patients in the U.S Healthcare system

Patients are central to the healthcare systems operation they fall under the category of major stakeholders. The first role that patients have in the healthcare systems is the ethical obligation towards their health. They are also responsible for controlling the costs that are paid for the services that they are offered in health care centers. Their major role lies in the ethics

category since it is not possible to make laws and programs that will forcefully restrict people into living healthy lives. However, the attainment of healthy lifestyles leads to lower healthcare costs (Institute of Medicine (U.S.) 2011).

Recommendations

The government should look into the interests of its citizens by enhancing the healthcare market where there seem to be gaps and controlling the health care delivery system where seems to be inefficiency, or justice is not well practiced. For the provision of high-quality healthcare to be achieved, there is the need for partnerships to be developed between the federal, state, local governments and the private sector (In Braithwaite et al. 2015). If this is practiced to the latter with combined efforts from the private and public sectors, then high-quality delivery of healthcare services is guaranteed. Patients should be taught on the importance of living a healthy life and avoiding risky lifestyles that can lead to diseases. They should be taught on the dangerous lifestyles that are not fit for the body. On the other hand, the providers ought to be trained to stick to ethics that guide their working so that greed does not become a motivating factor in their operation and ensure that they at all times stick to evidence based results. Moreover, the employers should leave out corruptive measures employed while employing their workforce. Finally, the payers should put much of their efforts in servicing the patients and become less business minded (In Braithwaite et al. 2015).

Conclusion

The health care delivery system is rapidly growing with significant growth in the quality of services that is being offered. This is as a result of considerable effort being made by its stakeholders. However, there is much that still needs to be done. A good relationship

developed among all the major stakeholders will guarantee fruitful results in the U.S. Healthcare system. For high quality and quick delivery of health care services to be achieved all the entities need to ensure that they take part in working on the roles and responsibilities (Yesalis, Politzer & Holt 2012).

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