

Aging and Health Policy

HSTD 35301 / PPHA 42401 / SSAD 49022

Spring Quarter 2010 – Tuesdays 3:00-5:50 BSLC 202

Faculty

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Course Website

Chalk.uchicago.edu: HSTD 353.

Overview

This course is a seminar in aging and health policy and the relationships between policy, financing, access to care, and quality of care for the elderly. The focus is on health care systems and policy as opposed to demography and biological aspects of aging. Specific topics include Medicaid and Medicare policy; long-term care insurance and financing; workforce issues; dementia and end-of-life care; the culture change movement; work and retirement as it relates to health policy; and cross-national comparisons of health policy toward the elderly. Students will engage in an ongoing discussion of policy options and learn to evaluate their potential to improve quality and ensure access for the elderly to health care and long-term care.

Required Texts:

There are no required texts. All reading materials will be posted on the course website.

Course Requirements

All readings must be completed prior to class. The quality of class discussions will largely determine the success of the course; therefore it is essential for students to come to each session well-prepared. Prior to each session, students will post 1-2 potential discussion questions each. Each student may be expected to lead the discussion for one or more sessions.

Two short papers are required, and each will be presented to the class. The first paper will be a short policy brief (approximately 5 pages) suggesting an approach to financing long-term care in the US. Economic, political, philosophical, and clinical obstacles and ramifications should be considered. The second paper (approximately 10-15 pages) will be a review of the literature or an empirical investigation on a topic of the student's choice related to aging and health policy, preferably a topic not covered in depth in class. It may be part of a larger ongoing research project, but must be an original contribution to that larger project. A one-page proposal for the paper will be due halfway through the course.

Evaluation

Class participation and preparedness	30%
Minor Assignments/discussion questions	15%
Policy brief	25%
Final Paper	30%

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Mar 30 Session I: Introduction
No readings

Session II: Is Demography Destiny?

- Gawande, Atul. The Way We Age Now. The New Yorker, April 30, 2007.
- Anderson GF, Hussey PS. Population aging: a comparison among industrialized countries. Health Aff (Millwood). 2000 May-Jun;19(3):191-203.
- Kramarow E, Lubitz J, Lentzner H, Gorina Y. Trends in the health of older Americans, 1970-2005. Health Aff (Millwood). 2007 Sep-Oct;26(5):1417-25.
- Jacobzone S. Coping with aging: international challenges. Health Aff (Millwood). 2000 May-Jun;19(3):213-25.

April 6 Session I: An Overview of Medicare

- Moon M. Organization and Financing of Health Care, Chapter 21 in Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, RH Binstock and LK George, editors, 2006.
- Davis K, Collins SR. Medicare at forty. Health Care Financ Rev. 2005-2006 Winter;27(2):53-62.

Session II: Current Issue in Medicare: Prescription Drug Benefit

- Antos JR. Ensuring access to affordable drug coverage in Medicare. Health Care Financ Rev. 2005-2006 Winter;27(2):103-12.
- Yin W, Basu A, Zhang JX, Rabbani A, Meltzer DO, Alexander GC. The effect of the Medicare Part D prescription benefit on drug utilization and expenditures. Ann Intern Med. 2008 Feb 5;148(3):169-77. Epub 2008 Jan 7.

Assignment: Choosing a Medicare Part D plan

April 13 Session I: Medicaid and Long-Term Care

- Stone, RI. Emerging Issues in Long-Term Care, Chapter 22 in Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, RH Binstock and LK George, editors, 2006.
- Grabowski DC. Medicaid reimbursement and the quality of nursing home care. J Health Econ. 2001 Jul;20(4):549-69.

Session II: Home- and Community-Based Care

- Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Service Programs: Data Update, November 2009.
- Grabowski DC. The cost-effectiveness of noninstitutional long-term care services: review and synthesis of the most recent evidence. Med Care Res Rev. 2006 Feb;63(1):3-28. Review.

April 20 Session I: Quality of Care

- Davis K, Guterman S. Rewarding excellence and efficiency in Medicare payments. Milbank Q. 2007 Sep;85(3):449-68.

- Harrington C, Carrillo H. The regulation and enforcement of federal nursing home standards, 1991-1997. *Med Care Res Rev.* 1999 Dec;56(4):471-94.
- Mor, V. Improving the quality of long-term care with better information. *Milbank Q.* 2005;83(3):333-64.
- Rosati RJ. The history of quality measurement in home health care. *Clin Geriatr Med.* 2009 Feb;25(1):121-34, vii-viii.

Assignment: Choosing a Hospital and Nursing Home
Paper proposals also due this week.

Session II: Innovative Payment and Care Delivery Models

- Kane RL, Keckhafer G, Flood S, Bershadsky B, Siadaty MS. The effect of Evercare on hospital use. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2003 Oct;51(10):1427-34.
- Kemper P. Commentary: Social experimentation at its best: the Cash and Counseling demonstration and its implications. *Health Serv Res.* 2007 Feb;42(1 Pt 2):577-86.
- Knickman JR, Stone RI. The public/private partnership behind the Cash and Counseling Demonstration and Evaluation: its origins, challenges, and unresolved issues. *Health Serv Res.* 2007 Feb;42(1 Pt 2):362-77.
- Grabowski DC. Special Needs Plans and the coordination of benefits and services for dual eligibles. *Health Aff (Millwood).* 2009 Jan-Feb;28(1):136-46.
- Hirth V, Baskins J, Dever-Bumba M. Program of all-inclusive care (PACE): past, present, and future. *J Am Med Dir Assoc.* 2009 Mar;10(3):155-60.

April 27 Session I: Long-Term Care Insurance

- Kemper P, Komisar HL, Alexih L. Long-term care over an uncertain future: what can current retirees expect? *Inquiry.* 2005-2006 Winter;42(4):335-50.
- McCall N, Mangle S, Bauer E, Knickman J. Factors important in the purchase of partnership long-term care insurance. *Health Serv Res.* 1998 Jun;33(2 Pt 1):187-203.
- (skim) Spillman BC, Murtaugh CM, Warshawsky MJ. Policy implications of an annuity approach to integrating long-term care financing and retirement income. *J Aging Health.* 2003 Feb;15(1):45-73.
- Norton EC. Long-Term Care in Handbook of Health Economics (LTC Insurance section only).

Session II: International Perspectives

- Saltman RB, Dubois HF, Chawla M. The impact of aging on long-term care in Europe and some potential policy responses. *Int J Health Serv.* 2006;36(4):719-46.
- Gleckman, H. Financing Long-Term Care: Lessons from Abroad. Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, June 2007.
- Brodsky J, Habib J, Hirschfeld M, Siegel B. Care of the frail elderly in developed and developing countries: the experience and the challenges. *Aging Clin Exp Res.* 2002 Aug;14(4):279-86.
- Stuart M, Weinrich M. Home- and community-based long-term care: lessons from Denmark. *Gerontologist.* 2001 Aug;41(4):474-80.

Assignment: Research and describe how elderly health care and LTC are financed for a

country other than the US, Germany, Japan, France, Denmark, or the UK.

May 4 Session I: Presentation/Discussion of Student Policy Briefs

Session II: Culture Change

- Video: "Almost Home"

May 11 Session I: Culture Change

- In: Weiner AS, Ronch JL, Editors: Culture Change in Long-Term Care. Binghamton: Haworth Press, 2003:
 - Thomas
 - Kehoe and Heesch
 - Rader & Semradek
- Rahman AN, Schnelle JF. The nursing home culture-change movement: recent past, present, and future directions for research. *Gerontologist*. 2008 Apr;48(2):142-8.
- Kane RA. Definition, measurement, and correlates of quality of life in nursing homes: toward a reasonable practice, research, and policy agenda. *Gerontologist*. 2003 Apr;43 Spec No 2:28-36.

Session II: Elderly Mental Health Policy

- Bartels SJ. Improving system of care for older adults with mental illness in the United States. Findings and recommendations for the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. *Am J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 2003 Sep-Oct;11(5):486-97.
- American Geriatrics Society; American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry. The American Geriatrics Society and American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry recommendations for policies in support of quality mental health care in U.S. nursing homes. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2003 Sep;51(9):1299-304.
- Fullerton CA, McGuire TG, Feng Z, Mor V, Grabowski DC. Trends in mental health admissions to nursing homes, 1999-2005. *Psychiatr Serv*. 2009 Jul;60(7):965-71.
- Riggs JA. The health and long-term care policy challenges of Alzheimer's disease. *Aging Ment Health*. 2001 May;5 Suppl 1:S138-45.

May 18 Session I: End of Life Care and Palliative Care

- Miller SC, Teno JM, Mor V. Hospice and palliative care in nursing homes. *Clin Geriatr Med*. 2004 Nov;20(4):717-34, vii. Review.
- Sachs GA, Shega JW, Cox-Hayley D. Barriers to excellent end-of-life care for patients with dementia. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2004 Oct;19(10):1057-63.
- Wiener JM, Tilly J. End-of-life care in the United States: policy issues and model programs of integrated care. *Int J Integr Care*. 2003;3:e24. Epub 2003 May 7.

Session II: Disparities

- Mor V, Zinn J, Angelelli J, Teno JM, Miller SC. Driven to tiers: socioeconomic and racial disparities in the quality of nursing home care. *Milbank Q*. 2004;82(2):227-56.

- Polsky D, Jha AK, Lave J, Pauly MV, Cen L, Klusaritz H, Chen Z, Volpp KG. Short- and Long-Term Mortality after an Acute Illness for Elderly Whites and Blacks. *Health Serv Res.* 2008 Mar 17.
- O'Brien E. CMS' Programs and Initiatives to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Medicare. National Academy of Social Insurance, 2005.
- Konetzka RT, Werner RM. Disparities in LTC: Building Equity into Market-Based Reforms. *Medical Care Research and Review*, 2009.

May 25 Session I: Workforce Issues

- Kovner CT, Mezey M, Harrington C. Who cares for older adults? Workforce implications of an aging society. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2002 Sep-Oct;21(5):78-89.
- Hussein S, Manthorpe J. An international review of the long-term care workforce: policies and shortages. *J Aging Soc Policy*. 2005;17(4):75-94.
- Institute of Medicine. *Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce*.

Session II:

- Health care reform in the US: What does it mean for the elderly?

June 1 Student Paper Presentations