**Instructional Design Document**

**Learning Block 1**

**The U.S. Health Care Delivery System**

This learning block provides an introduction to the U.S. health care delivery system. Students examine the fragmented structure of the health care system and its various components. The information presented will help students understand challenges related to high health care costs, unreliable quality, and disparities in access to services. This learning block provides a foundation for examining ongoing efforts to improve health care delivery.

**Subject Area:** Health Care Administration

**Use with Suggested Courses:** The Health Care Industry

**Key Terms:** Cost, quality, access, disparities, outcomes, health system aims, system, coordination, collaboration, fragmentation, patient, consumer, resident, client, health care settings, health care professionals, labor force, health care education, health care research, patient care, single-payer system, central governing authority, payers, insurance, risk, health care goods, government programs, vulnerable populations, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), cost control, utilization, quality monitoring, planning, reliability, stakeholders, politics, policymaking, improvement

**Competencies:**

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| **Structure of the U.S. Health Care System**  Analyze the structure of the U.S. health care system and its impact on health care delivery. | Beginning |
| **Payment Mechanisms and Major Payers**  Analyze public and private sector financing and its impact on health care delivery. | Beginning |
| **Providers / Health Care Professionals and Settings:** Compare the characteristics of various groups of health care professionals and types of settings involved in health care delivery in the U.S. | Beginning |
| **Stakeholder Interests and Relationships:** Analyze stakeholder interests and relationships, and the influence of these on health care delivery. | Beginning |
| **Cost, Quality, and Access**  Analyze the impact of cost, quality, and access on health care delivery. | Beginning |
| **Government Role**  Analyze the role of the government in the delivery of health care in the U.S. | Beginning |
| **Policy Implications for Cost, Quality, and Access**  Analyze the impact of policies on cost, quality, and access in health care. | Beginning |
| **Economics**  Analyzeeconomic dimensions of health care. | Beginning |

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Evaluate achievement of health care delivery system aims
2. Analyze the structure and components of the U.S. health care delivery system
3. Analyze access to health services in the United States
4. Analyze the impact of payment structures on health care delivery
5. Analyze the need for reliable quality in health care
6. Synthesize major challenges in the U.S. health care delivery system
7. Evaluate the need for health care reform in the United States

**Assessments:**

1. Discussion Topic: Achievement of Health System Aims (LO1, LO3, LO4, LO5) [Time on task: 45 minutes]
2. Assignment: Advantages and Limitations of the U.S. Health Care Delivery System (LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5, LO6, LO7) [Time on task: 45–60 minutes]
3. Project: U.S. Health Care Delivery System Presentation (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5, LO6, LO7) [Time on task: 3–4 hours]
4. Multiple Choice Set (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5, LO6, LO7) [Time on task: 10–20 minutes]

**Notes:**

This learning block is designed to be introductory for graduate students studying health care administration, so the prior knowledge required is minimal.

This learning block touches on several important topics that are emphasized in other learning blocks, such as stakeholders and stakeholder relationships, health care services and settings, and international comparisons of health care delivery systems.

To help students think more deeply and personally about the information presented, instructors may find it helpful to:

* Ask students to reflect on problems they have witnessed or experienced in the U.S. health care delivery system.
* Encourage students to share any health care experiences they have had while visiting or living in other countries, and consider how this informs their understanding of experiences they have had in the U.S.
* Present current events related to health care delivery and explain how these events relate to information presented in the learning block.