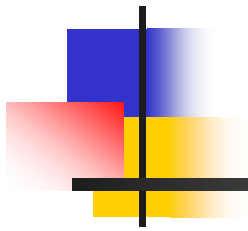


Tertiary Care



Chapter 16



Objectives

- Define tertiary care and other forms of specialty care
- Outlines the range of facilities providing tertiary level of care
- Discuss policy issue facing AHCs as major care providers



Introduction

- Tertiary care is highly specialized, complex, and often costly form of care offered in inpatient settings such as children's, psychiatric, and rehabilitation hospitals, and academic health centers (AHCs).
- AHCs are composed of an allopathic or osteopathic school of medicine, one or more schools or program to train health professionals, and a university or other teaching hospitals.



Definition

- **Specialty Medical Care**
- The definition of tertiary care is broad and centered around highly specialized, procedurally intensive inpatient care that may require a prolonged length of stay
- Examples:
 - Coronary artery bypass grafts (CABGs)
 - Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
 - Positron emission tomography (PET)



Definition Cont:

- Quaternary care is now employed to describe high level of care that is provided by AHCs
- Examples:
 - Burn units
 - Regional trauma centers
 - Transplant services
 - Inpatient AIDS centers
 - Neonatal intensive care units
 - Radiation therapy centers



Specialty Care Providers

- Certain conditions of the complex human organism require the focus and expertise of a specialists.
- AHCs and other teaching hospitals are providers of such services as kidney and bone marrow transportation, regionalized trauma care, dedicated inpatient AIDS care and in vitro fertilization.
- AHCs and other teaching hospitals provide only a small fraction of other services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), Angioplasty, and open heart surgery.



AHCs as Provider of Tertiary Care

- **Characteristics**
- 1. Many large community hospitals provide tertiary care
 - High level of care
 - Treatment of indigent and uninsured patients
 - 44 percent of uncompensated care inpatient care is provided by AHCs



Reasons AHCs are providers of Uncompensated Care

- 1. As major training sites of physicians and other health services providers require an ample training sites for physicians
- 2. Some of AHCs and their teaching hospitals are public facilities.
- 3. AHCs admit and care for an unusually high numbers of indigent patients, whose inability to pay for their care create fiscal hardship.



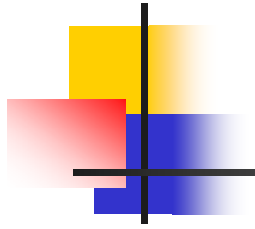
AHC as Provider of Tertiary Care- Cont:

- 2. education mission
- 3. extend and variety of research they conduct.
- These 3 characteristics of AHCs are referred to as their tripartite mission of patient care and service, education, and research.

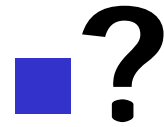


Policy Issues Facing AHCs

- Until the evolution of an increase competitive health services market place in the 1990s, AHC were able to maintain their comprehensive level of care and charge payers a higher price that reflects the volume and intensity of services, and a margin to cross-subsidize the production of other public health goods.



Questions





Reference

- Barton, P.L. (2007). *Understanding the U. S. Health Service Systems*, Third Edition; Phoebe Lindsey Health Administration Press.