Health Care Markets and Regulation
Syllabus – Spring 2023

PPHA 37820 / PBPL 28335 / ECON 17710
Section 1: Tu/Th 9:30am-10:50am
Section 2: Tu/Th 11am-12:20am

NOTE: syllabus is subject to change.
This version: September 7, 2023

Professor: Joshua Gottlieb
Email: jgottlieb@uchicago.edu
Email subject line must include "PPHA 37820" or "PBPL 28335" or "ECON 17710"

Description

This course analyzes the economics of health care markets and the way regulations impact those markets. We will study the unique institutional arrangements found in the health care sector (primarily, though not exclusively, in the United States) and examine how market forces manifest themselves in this setting. We will consider the behavior of health care providers, insurers’ roles as both intermediaries and risk managers, patients’ health care demand, and geographic differences in medicine. The study of government regulations, including their theoretical and empirical impacts on health care markets, will be integrated throughout these topics.

For each student, the course will be structured around a healthcare area of your choosing, such as a specific disease or treatment. At the beginning of the quarter, students will choose a topic in healthcare in conjunction with Prof. Gottlieb (ensuring each student has a different topic). You may choose from the list below or, with Prof. Gottlieb's agreement, a different topic of your own.

- Each week, students will prepare a presentation, applying that week's topic to your treatment area.
- At the end of the quarter, students will bring all of this work together into the final paper and presentation. This culminating project will synthesize the presentations from throughout the quarter into an analysis of the market and regulations most important for the topic, and making any appropriate policy recommendations for the topic.

Professional communications

1. All emails to the instructor must include in the subject line "PBPL 28335" or "PPHA 37820" or "ECON 17710"
2. All communications in the course, including emails, must be professional and clear. Use complete sentences, punctuation, and proper grammar. Do not start emails with "Hey", "yo", or any of the more creative salutations I've seen over the years.
Assignments

Weekly presentations (50%)
- Beginning in the second week of class, students will prepare a five-minute presentation for each Thursday class, discussing how the week's topic applies to their chosen area of medicine.
- Note: you may skip one week’s assignment without penalty. However, the assignments build up towards the final project, so it is in your interest to complete all of them.

Final presentation (25%)
Final paper (25%)

Pre-approved topic list

- CAR-T cell therapy: cancer immunotherapy treatment
- Hepatitis C antiviral treatments
- Alzheimer's disease – speculative new treatments
- Laser eye surgery – Lasik
- End-stage renal disease and dialysis
- Gene therapy
- Rheumatoid arthritis biologic therapies
- Other topics upon mutual agreement with the instructor

Deadlines

Due dates are taken seriously and late assignments will be penalized. No work submitted after the last regular course meeting will be graded under any circumstances.

Book

Amy Finkelstein and Liran Einav, *We've Got You Covered: Rebooting American Health Care*
[https://www.amazon.com/Weve-Got-You-Covered-Rebooting/dp/B0BQ8HXKFC/](https://www.amazon.com/Weve-Got-You-Covered-Rebooting/dp/B0BQ8HXKFC/)

Reading List by Week

** indicates mandatory readings which must be completed before class

1. **September 26: Class introduction. Basics of health insurance and the U.S. health care system**


2. October 3: Health insurance: risk mitigation & consumer demand


3. October 10: Payment systems and physician behavior

- You can focus on the introduction and institutional background sections of these papers.


**Clemens, Jeffrey, and Joshua D. Gottlieb, “Do Physicians’ Financial Incentives Affect Medical Treatment and Patient Health?,” American Economic Review, April 2014, 104 (4), 1320–49. [available here].


4. October 17: Guest lecture: Kelsey Maguire

Topic: Innovation in payment models and value-based care

*Kelsey Maguire is a Managing Director with Sandbox Industries and the Blue Venture Fund, investing on behalf of 34 Blue Cross Blue Shield plans and affiliates. Kelsey invests in venture and growth stage companies in healthcare services, healthcare technology, and clinical diagnostics.*
5. October 24: Administrative costs


Gottlieb, Joshua D., Adam Hale Shapiro, and Abe Dunn, “The Complexity Of Billing And Paying For Physician Care,” Health Affairs, April 2018, 37 (4), 619–626. [available here]


6. October 31: Geography of healthcare


7. November 7: Healthcare labor markets and investment


8. November 14: Guest lecture: Jarrett Fowler and Alia Ibrahim
   Topic: Trade in medical services
Jarrett Fowler is senior director of strategic and international initiatives at the National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL), a Chicago-based healthcare leadership organization. He also oversees NCHL’s international activities and NCHL’s US Cooperative for International Patient Programs (USCIPP) team. He holds a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Arts in international studies from the University of Chicago.

Alia Ibrahim is senior manager of USCIPP at NCHL. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in interdisciplinary studies from DePaul University.

9. **November 28: Health insurance: intermediation & incidence**


**Additional material**


