Continuum of Care (CRN 1098)

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Course Objectives

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Define and discuss "continuum of care."
2. Characterize the client populations needing "continuum of care" services, projected growth, and methods of assessment.
3. Explain the rationale for a health care system oriented to chronic care.
4. Outline the basic programmatic, administrative, regulatory, and financing dimensions of each of the major health services comprising the continuum of care.
5. Articulate the purpose for integrating mechanisms and describe each of the four key integrating mechanisms.
6. Explain the complexities of the current health care system based on historical development, financing fragmentation, and regulatory auspices.
7. Consider the structure and financing of a continuum of care system of the future that corrects the deficiencies of the current system and yet is realistic within the context of the U.S. health care delivery system; federal, state, and local financial situations; cultural norms; and social context.

Course Requirements

1) Class participation 25%
2) Midterm assignment 25%
3) Final assignment 50%

Project: Each student is to identify an existing home care program and describe that program using data and/or references whenever possible (e.g. annual report). Included in the description should be the following components:

Program description and history
Program mission, goals and objectives
Program size
Client/Patient description
Patient assessment
Patient reimbursement
Program organization
Staffing and personnel
How the program is marketed
How the program is regulated
Program finances
Program evaluation and quality assurance
Legal issues and risk management
Program relation with physicians
Problems and issues
Future and recommendations

The following are examples of the type of organization that can be the subject of the project:

Certified home health agencies
Long term home health care programs
Licensed home care agencies
Visiting nurse association
Hospital home health agency
Nursing home health program
Hospice
Adult day care program
Respite
Social health maintenance organization
Innovative home care programs such as:

1. Montefiore Hospital Home Health Program (Bronx. N.Y.)
2. St. Mary's Hospital for Children (Bayside, N.Y.) http://www.stmaryskids.org
3. The Chelsea Village Program (St. Vincent's Hospital, N.Y.)
4. Metropolitan Jewish Health System (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
5. Gay Mens Health Crisis Program (N.Y.)

Other innovative home care programs are highlighted in the journals entitled 'Caring", "Home Health Care Services Quarterly", and "The Pride Journal of Long Term Home Health Care." YOU MUST HAVE AN APPROVED PROJECT PROPOSAL BEFORE BEGINNING TO WRITE YOUR PAPER!!!!!

Or!

Paper: Each student is to select a topic from the list below and write a research paper on that topic using references and/or data whenever possible (e.g. journal articles):

Pediatric Home Care
High-Tech Home Care
Home Care Staffing
Home Care Marketing
Home Care Finance and Reimbursement
Home Care Special Populations (e.g. AIDS, etc.)
Other

You are submitting a one page proposal on your project or research topic on session 3. A proposal should include 150-300 words summarizing what your project or research will be and should be accompanied by at least 3 references that you will use in writing your paper. You must have an approved proposal before beginning to write your paper. Do not begin to write your paper without an approval. A draft of the paper is due on week 5 as your midterm assignment. The deadline for your paper is week 7. During sessions 8 and 9, you will be asked to present your paper.