

Discussion Class Assignment – Due September 13, 2011

The assignment is to read the paper: *A Much Better Health Care System* by Cleve Killingsworth (*Inquiry*, 48, 9-14, Spring 2011). You will need to turn in a 300 word summary of the article in class. The summary should address the following questions. You should also be prepared to discuss these questions in class.

1. According to the author, what is the problem with the health care reform legislation recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the President? Briefly, what are some of the other flaws in the current health care system? Please be specific.
2. How does the author's solution of "global payment" address the problems that he identifies in the health care system? Please be specific.
3. What are the advantages the author claims for his proposal of global payments? Does the author identify any weaknesses with his proposed solution to health care reform? If not, can you think of any weaknesses with the author's proposed solution? Be prepared to briefly discuss them.
4. The author acknowledges that earlier versions of "capitation" are similar to his proposal of "global payments". Capitation is a similar payment method used to finance Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). What makes "global payment" different than capitation according to the author?
5. Will the proposed solution for the problem of the uninsured in the U.S. actually work? Please give specific reasons for your answer.