

CONTROVERSY 7: SHOULD WE RATION HEALTH CARE OR OLDER PEOPLE?

Debate over Rationing. For a debate "Should Age Count in Allocating Health Care Resources?" between ethicist Dan Callahan and geriatric physician Christine Cassell, visit: http://www.agingresearch.org/living_longer/fall_03/highlights.cfm

Gatekeeping and Rationing. The article "Warm-hearted Care-- or Cold-hearted Rationing?" in the journal *Medical Economics* gives an inside look at the fascinating story of gatekeeping practices at GeriMed, an HMO specializing in Medicare risk-contracting. Read the article at: http://www.findarticles.com/cf_dls/m3229/2_77/59556542/p1/article.jhtml

Age Discrimination. For a discussion of discrimination against older people in the U.S. health system, see: http://www.aarp.org/bulletin/yourhealth/Articles/a2003-10-30-2ndclass_care.html

Economics of Health Care. See the article "Why Have Health Expenditures as a Share of GDP Risen So Much?" (National Bureau of Economic Research, Nov. 2002) at: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/W9325>

Facts about Medicare. Here are some websites that provide basic history and statistical facts about Medicare:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/about/history/ssachr.asp>

History of Medicare. For the early history of Medicare, see Peter Corning's book on the subject, now available online at: <http://www.ssa.gov/history/corning.html>

Quiz. For a Quiz on Medicare see: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/about/history/quiz/cms-quiz.asp>

Medicare Data. For up-to-date statistical information on Medicare including fact sheets, graphs, and charts visit:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/statistics/more_statistics.asp

<http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=4159&sequence=0>

<http://agingstats.gov/>

Health Care Curriculum. A curriculum guide, including bibliography, on "Health Care for an Aging Society" by Thomas H. Dennison, is available at: http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/gero_ed/health.htm

Medicare Modernization (2003). The full text of the Medicare Prescription Drug Act is available at:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_bills&docid=f:h1enr.txt.pdf

More Perspective on Medicare Modernization:

The Commonwealth Fund:

http://www.cmwf.org/programs/medfutur/medicarechtpk_debate_659.pdf

The Kaiser Family Foundation:

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/rxdrugdebate.cfm>

The Medicare Rights Center:

<http://www.medicarerights.org>

History. For the early history of Medicare, see Peter Corning's book on the subject, now available online at:

<http://www.ssa.gov/history/corning.html>

Declining Disability. Disability rates among elders have dropped dramatically, as Kenneth Manton's ground-breaking research has shown. True, but exactly why has this been happening? And will it continue in future? Questions, and more questions. For a tentative approach to the subject, take a look at "Disability Decline: What We Know, and What We'd Like to Know" available at:

<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha/seminars/reports.html>

Last Year of Life. There is a lot of mythology concealed under statistics about "the last year of life." For more insight on the the cost of health care and aging, see the report on "Seven Deadly Myths: Uncovering the Facts About the High Cost of the Last Year of Life" available at:

<http://www.agingresearch.org/brochures/7myths/7myths.html>

Rationing and the British National Health Service

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/321/7252/40>

Medicare Managed Care Plans

<http://www.nolo.com/article.cfm/objectID/95E4C58E-E017-4E69-9A509320D5487E7E/118/207/201/ART/>

The Century Foundation and Medicare Reform

<http://www.medicarewatch.org/>

Medicare's Origin: A Conservative View

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/journal/cj16n3-3.html>

Managed Care Key Terms and Concepts

<http://www.medicarehmo.com/mcmnu.htm>

Slouching Towards a Duty to Die

<http://www.haciendapub.com/article29.html>

Is Government Already Rationing Health Care?

<http://www.americanreform.org/Lamm/health-care.html>

“Rationing Has Always Been With Us”

<http://www.globalchange.com/rationin.htm>

Definition of Health Care Rationing

http://www.yourdoctorinthefamily.com/grandtheory/section2_1.htm

British National Health Service. The British National Health Service provides health care for all citizens in the United Kingdom. The NHS web page explains the dynamics of its health services, including programs and development:

<http://www.nhs.uk/>