

Technologic Innovations and Rising Healthcare Costs

Author Name

University Name

Even though technologic innovations have led to many positive advancements in the field of healthcare, they have also resulted in higher overall costs of such care. According to Bodenheimer (2005), the “greater availability” of various medical technologies and the services associated with them have caused “greater per capita use and higher spending.” At the same time, Daniel Callahan (2015) of The Hastings Center believed that it was imperative to examine more tangible figures and numbers associated with this factor. He stated, “Health care economists estimate that 40–50% of annual cost increases can be traced to new technologies or the intensified use of old ones” (Callahan, 2015), apparently implying that the control of technology was one of the most important factors in cutting costs.

As a nursing leader, I have the opportunity to research and present arguments related to the issue of rising healthcare costs. One of the major barriers to addressing and solving this issue is the presence of various economic and political detractors that will oppose the decreased use of new medical technologies for a variety of reasons (Callahan, 2015). As a result, I can invest much more time and physical effort into researching about and improving the way that we deliver public and primary healthcare here in the United States. If I have tangible and relevant work experience in the public healthcare sector, then there is a possibility that my arguments against higher technology costs and newer innovations in the private sector may hold more weight; especially now when medical graduates are facing the prospect of paying off student loans in an industry that is known to offer better pay in the competitive private sector instead of the lower equipped public one.

References

Bodenheimer, T. (2005). High and rising health care costs. Part 2: Technologic innovation. *Ann Intern Med*, Vol. 142(11), 932-937.

Callahan, D. (2015, September 23). *Health care costs and medical technology*. The Hastings Center. Retrieved 2017, November 21, from

<https://www.thehastingscenter.org/briefingbook/health-care-costs-and-medical-technology/>