

Review Of Current Healthcare Issues

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

### 1-1 Discussion: Review of Current Healthcare Issues

Escalating healthcare costs is a significant national issue affecting the healthcare system, including patient care, staffing, and financial stability. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, national health spending is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 5.5% from 2022 to 2030, reaching nearly \$6.8 trillion by 2030. In my work setting, a 300-bed community hospital serving a mixed urban and rural population, the impact of rising costs is profound.

The hospital faces budget constraints that affect resource allocation, patient care quality, and staff workload. For instance, patients encounter higher out-of-pocket expenses, leading to delayed or foregone care. The increased workload for staff results in burnout and low morale, while financial instability hinders investment in new technologies and compliance with regulatory requirements. Delayed integration of electronic health records (EHRs) due to budget issues impacts workflow efficiency and patient outcomes. Staff shortages in critical departments lead to increased overtime and reduced patient satisfaction.

In response, the hospital has implemented several strategies, including policy changes for better cost management, launching new programs to enhance operational efficiency, and conducting staff training to optimize resource use. Technological upgrades, such as adopting telehealth services, have been prioritized to reduce costs. These strategies have had mixed results. For example, telehealth services have reduced operational costs and improved patient access to care, but the delayed implementation of EHRs continues to challenge efficiency and care coordination.

Stakeholders, including leadership, staff, and patients, play crucial roles in these strategies. Leadership is pivotal in policy development, staff involvement is essential in training

and program implementation, and patient feedback guides service adjustments. Specific changes, such as a new staffing model in the emergency department and prioritizing essential services, have led to modest improvements in staff satisfaction and operational costs.

Addressing escalating healthcare costs requires continuous evaluation and stakeholder involvement to refine strategies and achieve sustainable improvements in healthcare delivery.

### **Peer Responses**

Respond to at least two of your colleagues on two days who chose a different national healthcare issue/stressor than you selected. Explain how their chosen national healthcare issue/stressor may also impact your work setting and what (if anything) is being done to address the national healthcare issue/stressor.

#### **Response 01**

Hello Mark, nice post! Your analysis of technology disruption highlights significant challenges affecting my work setting. Technology integration can lead to workflow inefficiencies and staff training demands, similar to the issues we face with escalating costs. To address this, our hospital has implemented comprehensive training programs and phased technology rollouts to mitigate disruptions and improve adoption. Continuous monitoring and feedback from staff have been crucial in refining these initiatives, ensuring smoother transitions and better outcomes for patient care.

#### **Response 02**

Responding to peers is one of the vital parts of the NURS 6053 Module 1 Discussion posts. We need to provide at least two peer responses. I will provide one example post. You can write your peer responses by keeping the above points in mind.