Healthcare Policy

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**Question: Analyze the history, structure, and process of health- care policy and politics in nursing and the health care delivery system in the United States?**

**Answer:** The healthcare system in the US is much different and unique compared with many western and other countries of the world. The health care system of the US is based on providing universal health care which covers both the government programs and also the private employer-based system. Nursing constitutes the backbone of this health care system. There has been wide criticism on government for its lack of actions in the health care, but at the same time, many have praised the system of innovation and diversity that is built by incorporating the private industry related to the health care.

*History of health- care policy and politics:* The health care policy formulation has gone through many important phases. The policymakers in the health care system have long debated the processes and their outcomes in the health- care sector which could benefit the entire population of the US. Throughout the history of health care in the US, the following issues have invited much debate and controversies

* how to include efficiency among the different kinds of health insurances. For example fee for the services versus the managed health care.
* Issues related to the inclusion of people outside the employment system. For example non- employed people such as the elder citizens and the unemployed citizens.
* how to limit the government spending on health care while maintaining the quality at the same time(Bryson and Matthews 2003).

Bryson and Matthew also argue that throughout the history the government’s expenditure on the health care has increased, and it has remained failed in curbing those expenditures and maintain the quality of the healthcare system at the same time. Throughout the history of the health care system, governments have managed to spend a considerable amount but have also remained fail in limiting the criticism. Since the year 2013, forty-three percent of the health care spending included the private households, nearly thirty percent from the privately owned businesses, twenty percent from the public sector and twenty-seven percent from all other insurance plans(Bryson and Matthews 2003). At present, health care and nursing constitute a very important industry for the economy of the US. It adds around one-sixth in the national GDP.

*Structure of health- care policy and politics:* Many politicians in the US have remained sided from debating about the formation and the ultimate benefits of the healthcare system in the US. The present structure of the healthcare system in the US is massively complex. This complex system has now turned into a trillion dollar industry. Almost every nurse, hospital, pharmaceutical manufacturing company and specialized health facilities are the part of this system in one way or another. The present structure of the healthcare system is totally web-based and is accessible from any part of the US. This structure is also the fastest growing opportunity for consulting firms and investments portfolios. The health care structure is basically based on the provision of funding, health care, the reimbursement and the regulation of the facilities. This all falls under the AHCS (American Health care system). Organization and delivery of the health care system remain the last component of the health care structure of the US(Kunitz 1996).

 The healthcare policy, on the other hand, involves debating, creating and implementing the many complex laws and regulations in the US healthcare system. The policies in the healthcare system are related to managing the healthcare system. These policies cover the services related to many medical professionals in diagnosing, treating and preventing the illnesses and injuries(Schiller, Lucas, and Peregoy 2012). The health care policy also covers a diverse range of other related sectors. For example the insurances, the pharmaceutical manufacturing, and the health care information technology.

*Process of health- care policy:* The process of the health care policy and that of the nursing is based on many different steps. The important policy-making processes include

* The identification of the problem, which has triggered the formulation of the new health care policy.
* The identification of the primary indicators which offers some measures in making of the policy. In this process, the health care manufacturing policy is based on the quantitative indicators that could address the problem in hand.
* The identifications of the solid steps that could also be in the pipeline in most of the cases. In this process, practical feasibility is also considered beforehand.
* The final step in the policy manufacturing in healthcare includes the comparative analysis of the problem that is needed to be addressed with that of the resources that are planned to allocate. This is important in analyzing roughly about the measure of commitment and how much it could be a constructive addition to the existing health care system(Meehan et al. 1997).

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