

The findingDulcinea Blog

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Get Acquainted With Health Care Reform Issues

I don't think that health care reform will be Obama's "Waterloo," as South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint was quoted as saying by Ben Smith of Politico. But the stakes are high, both personally and politically.

An article in Slate Magazine explains how private insurance companies give incentives to employees to drop expensive accounts—just before a major surgery—"based on stupid technicalities." These are called rescissions. According to Slate, an employee at WellPoint received a high score on her job evaluation due to "the dollar amount [\$10 million] she had managed to deny through rescission."

My mother was a victim of rescission. After suffering from gingivitis for 15 years, she had two teeth taken out. The cores of the teeth had rotted with infection. Unfortunately, these teeth anchored her permanent dentures, so she not only needed two teeth removed but also a new denture. Her insurance company, which paid for her previous dentures, dropped her two days before she was scheduled for a \$38,000 procedure on the basis of an "undisclosed previous condition."

More than half (51 percent) of Americans admit that they don't understand the issues involved in health care reform. The numbers are even lower for Americans' faith in members of Congress: Only 27 percent of Americans believe that members of Congress have a good grasp of health care issues.

The sheer complexity of the current health care debate needs to be understood. Get informed with a variety of perspectives on health care reform:

Jonathan Cohn, a writer for The New Republic, is stationed in Washington, D.C., and reports what he sees in The Treatment, The New Republic's health care blog.

The Washington Post's health care blog, Health Care Rx, is a reliable source of breaking news. Turn here for new research on the complicated social policies involved in the debate.

The Cato Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank headquartered in Washington, D.C., presents different philosophical views on the health care debate in its blog, Cato @ Liberty.

Jim Sabin's blog, Health Care Organizational Ethics, keeps an eye on policy ideals and the most efficient distribution of health care.

David Williams, cofounder of MedPharma Partners, covers business issues in health care in his blog, Health Business Blog.

Health Beat is a project of The Century Foundation, an organization that examines public policy. The blog is maintained by Maggie Mahar, a fellow at the Foundation and author of "Money-Driven Medicine: The Real Reason Health Care Costs So Much."

The Covert Rationing Blog, written by a former professor of medicine, explains why it's unavoidable to ration health care, and distinguishes between productive and unproductive means of rationing health care.

Read findingDulcinea's four-part article series on health care to learn more about landmarks and issues leading to President Obama's plan:

[Part I: Surveying the Facts of the American Health Care Landscape](#)

[Part II: Revisiting HillaryCare: What It Proposed and Why It Failed](#)

[Part III: Does Socialized Medicine Work? A Look at British Health Care](#)

[Part IV: Deconstructing the Democratic Plan for Health Care](#)

Josh Goldberg

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Posted by: [CNBC](#) | [August 03, 2009 at 02:19 PM](#)

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