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B. "Quality of Life with Defibrillator Therapy or Amiodarone in Heart Failure," by Daniel B. Mark, Kevin J. Anstrom, Jie L. Sun, Nancy E. Clapp-Channing, Anastasios A. Tsiatis, Linda Davidson-Ray, Kerry L. Lee, Gust H. Bardy, for the Sudden Cardiac Death in Heart Failure Trial Investigators (Vol. 359, No. 10, September 4, 2008, p. 999-1008). <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/359/10/999>

16. NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH: "Is American Health Care Uniquely Inefficient?" by Alan M. Garber and Jonathan Skinner (w14257, August 2008, .pdf format, 40p.).

Abstract:

The U.S. health system has been described as the most competitive, heterogeneous, inefficient, fragmented, and advanced system of care in the world. In this paper, we consider two questions: First, is the U.S. health care system productively efficient relative to other wealthy countries, in the sense of producing better health for a given bundle of hospital beds, physicians, nurses, and other factor inputs? Second, is the U.S. allocatively efficient relative to other countries, in the sense of providing highly valued care to consumers? For both questions, the answer is most likely no. Although no country can claim to have eliminated inefficiency, the U.S. has fragmented care, high administrative costs, and stands out with regard to heterogeneity in treatment because of race, income, and geography. The U.S. health care system is also more likely to pay for diagnostic tests, treatments, and other forms of care before effectiveness is established and with little consideration of the value they provide. A number of proposed reforms that are designed to ameliorate shortcomings of the U.S. health care system, such as quality improvement initiatives and coverage expansions, are unlikely by themselves to reduce expenditures. Addressing allocative inefficiency is a far more difficult task but central to controlling costs.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14257>

17. POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU: "Disability, Elderly Health, and Obesity,"

(August 2008, Windows Media Player, podcast, and MP3 format, running time 15 minutes). Note: This webcast is an interview with "Jay Bhattacharya, an assistant professor of medicine and a faculty member of the Center for Health Policy and the Center for Primary Care Outcomes Research at Stanford University."

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Full Text is also available (usually on a one day delay) via the ProQuest Newspaper Library, for the Eastern Edition only. These articles are taken from the Midwest Edition. Do a "guided search" on article title words For the date of the article.

19. "Older Vietnamese Report More Mental Health Problems" (University of California-Irvine press release via Eurekalert [American Association for the Advancement of Science], Sep. 4, 2008).

http://today.uci.edu/news/release_detail.asp?key=1825

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