

**Fall 2002**

**UCLA School of Public Health**

**Master of Public Health for Health Professionals**

**Health Services 442A: Managed Care**

Faculty: Stuart P. Bowne, MD, and L. Carl Volpe, PhD

Day/Time: Saturdays: 8:00AM - 12:00 Noon

Place: Room 16-059 CHS

### **BACKGROUND**

Managed care has dominated the health care scene here in California and elsewhere in the United States for the past decade. Its impact has been felt in a number of ways. Managed care represents organizational and technical changes in the way health care is organized, financed and delivered. Further, its emergence as the dominant form of health care has resulted in an alteration to the way health care is perceived and has impacted the roles of most, if not all, the players.

The purpose of the course is to give you a basic introduction to managed care, particularly in California, so that you can function effectively in a managed care-dominated health care system. The course will review the history and central principles of managed care, describe the overall structure of the managed care system and discuss current changes and future developments in the system itself.

### **FORMAT FOR THE COURSE**

The course will consist of a mixture of traditional lecture presentations by faculty, review of important published literature/reports and presentations from professionals in the California managed care system. Primary emphasis will be placed on current, applicable information that is drawn from contemporary practice. Class assignments will focus on current management and policy challenges facing managed care today.

The sequence of presentations generally will be as follows. Initial sessions will address the history, basic principles and structure of managed care and will cover the basic types of managed care insurance products and provider delivery systems. The mid-course sessions will address some of the major management challenges facing managed care: financial management, provider networks, utilization and quality management, as well as issues related to carve-out benefits including prescription drugs and behavioral health. Finally, the course will address managed care from the perspective of the major stakeholders: purchasers (employers, government), arrangers (managed care plans), providers (physicians/groups and hospitals), consumers (patients/public) and government.

## TEXTBOOKS/READINGS

The principal textbook for the class will be Essentials of Managed Health Care (Fourth Edition) by Peter R. Kongstvedt. Specific chapters have been selected as important readings for the course. A second textbook, The Managed Health Care Handbook (Fourth Edition), also by Kongstvedt, is available in the MPH HP program office. This book can be used to supplement the principal textbook to provide additional information and/or ideas for course assignments. The reading list represents current articles and publications dealing with recent developments in managed care.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Two written assignments are required.

Assignment 1. *“Where you stand depends on where you sit.”* Our current health care system has a number of stakeholders (i.e. purchasers -- employers, government; arrangers -- managed care plans, health insurers; providers – physicians, physician groups, hospitals; consumers – patients, public; and government). Each has a different perspective on our managed care system. This paper should be a report to a superior or a board of directors explaining a managed care issue, from the perspective of one of the stakeholders. [Note: While managed care uses health insurance principles, not all health insurance is managed care. Please remember that the paper is to focus on managed care.]

**Due November 9, 2002.**

Assignment 2. *“Identifying the problem is important, but finding the solution is critical.”* The current managed care system is faced with a myriad of significant challenges. Your second paper should be in the form of a “white paper” that first outlines briefly a significant challenge in managed care and then proposes a solution to that challenge. [Note: Like the first paper, this one must address managed care not health insurance.]

**Due December 14, 2002.**

### About The Papers

- Five to seven double-spaced typewritten pages.
- A few important references should be included.
- The papers should demonstrate your mastery of the subject as well as your skills in critical thinking and critical writing.
- They are not meant to be research papers nor detailed surveys of the literature.

## **GRADING**

The grading for this course will be based as follows

- 20 pts. Max. Full Class Attendance  
[No penalty for the first absence with prior instructor notification. Three (3) point deduction for each subsequent absence thereafter. One (1) point deduction for each late arrival after class begins.]
- 20 pts. Max. Full Participation In Classroom Discussions And Exercises  
[This includes active listening and verbal contributions. Scores determined by instructors' judgment.]
- 30 pts. Max. First Paper\*
- 30 pts. Max. Second Paper\*

\* Score reduced by 5% 1-7 days late  
Score reduced by 10% 8-14 days late  
Score reduced by 15% 15-21 days late  
Score reduced by 20% 22+ days late

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
100-97	A+
96-93	A
92-89	A-
88-85	B+
84-81	B
80-75	B-
74-72	C+
71-69	C
68-66	C-
Below 66	F