

Healthcare in the United Kingdom

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MED INF 401 – American Healthcare System, Winter 2010

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from junior to senior level experience. Unlike the United States, the lucrative positions are in primary care. On average there are 163.93 physicians per 100,000 inhabitants compared to 279.0 in the USA. (2010, Grant)

The NHS is wholly funded by the government. Its source is almost entirely through income tax. Annual expenditures are approximately 100 billion US per year. In terms of effectiveness, the United Kingdom ranks just below the USA at 13.7% out of 191 countries.

The delivery of health care in the United Kingdom is not without its issues though. Like the United States, access to health care is a prominent issue. The NHS delivers primarily to those seeking acute care. For those services considered non-emergency, the population waits a considerable amount of time to be seen by a provider. According to numbers taken from the second quarter 2002, "...a total of 74,814 patients in England were waiting for hospital admission for eye, nose, and throat complaints. Of these, 44.5% waited for less than three months, 27.3% waited three to five months, 17.75 waited six to eight months, and the remainder waited longer." (2010, Grant) For these reasons, patients will seek out health care in the private sector. However this is only a very small fraction of the population. 99% of the populations health care needs are met by the NHS, leaving only 1% that seek out care from private providers. (2010, Grant)

It is clear that through the information shared, that the United Kingdom has done a good job at making its health care accessible to the population. However there is definitely room for improvement. It would seem that the effectiveness achieved may be contributed in part to their emphasis on the role of the primary physician. This is a role that is not equally as emphasized in the United States. The primary care physician plays a vital role in delivering quality, effective care to the population that seeks

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