Contemporary Health Care Issues and Health Policy

In this section of the course, we will look at important issues currently confronting health care providers in clinical medicine, preparing students to assume leadership roles and/or to be participants in today’s society. The students will also be able to apply this knowledge for patient advocacy and societal benefit, and to maintain and improve the public health.

Content: In this section, we will cover:

- The evolution of health care delivery in the U.S.
- Health care insurance and delivery systems
- Reimbursement methods
- Government health care programs
- The Accountable Care Act (Obama-care)
- Value-Based Health Care (payment for results)
- The electronic health record (EHR)
- Technology assessment
- Allied health providers and inter-professional education (IPE)
- Applying ethical principles to contemporary practice
- Collaborative (shared) decision-making and informed consent
- The business of medicine: physicians as independent vendors and as employees
- Medical homes and Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)
- The regulation and evaluation of hospitals
- Patient safety, quality improvement, high reliability and evidence-based practice

Learning Objectives:

Students attending this course will:

1. Describe the beginnings and evolution of the U.S. health care system, along with the current efforts to reform the system to expand coverage and improve the safety and quality of the care delivered
2. Delineate and adopt a personal plan for improving lifestyle choices so that health care providers may act as role models for both their patients and society
3. List the major areas of health law that affect medical malpractice and the legal protections that consumers have as patients to guarantee their privacy as they encounter the health care system
4. Describe global health disease patterns and public health systems, as well as the social and political determinants of health, in order to help create a more responsive and efficient health care system in the U.S. and globally. Understand both common infectious and non-
communicable diseases with an intention to help improve outcomes nationally and internationally.

5. Learn and be able to implement a health care disaster plan for both natural and man-made calamitous events.

**Length:** 7 hours

**Faculty:** Joseph Gambone, DO, MPH (emeritus professor, Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA)