**Environmental Science**

Name

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Institution Affiliations

Course

Date

**Introduction**

The healthcare landscape is transforming, urging a departure from traditional acute hospital care towards a more comprehensive model. This model prioritizes preventive care and chronic disease management, aiming to address the current limitations in cost-effectiveness, fairness, and societal responsibility. Acute hospital care involves treating patients suffering from severe illnesses that are a result of trauma or after going through surgery for a short period. Various health practitioners provide Acute hospital care at health centres using medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and technical equipment. In summary, an acute care hospital is an institution that has medical personnel and resources that help care for and treat patients who are suffering from injuries and severe medical issues (The Health Foundation, 2023). Primary healthcare is a society-driven approach that targets having the best possible well-being and health. This is possible by focusing on what people need early to aid disease prevention, treatment, palliative care, and rehabilitation (WHO, 2023). According to research done by Dr. Kerr white in 1961, which is still relevant today, the primary care workforce in the United States has reduced to a disturbing 31% while the number of specialists in the country continues to grow (Willis, 2020). This essay explores the implications of this paradigm shift regarding cost, fairness, feasibility, and the roles of individuals and society in healthcare responsibility. Additionally, it considers the impact on acute hospital care, chronic illnesses, disease prevention, population health, and the overall economy.

**Preventive Care and Cost Implications**

Preventive care, encompassing screenings, counselling, and check-ups, is foundational to a proactive healthcare approach (Health Care, 2023). This approach seeks to rectify the reactive nature of the United States healthcare system, which tends to treat illnesses after they have already progressed, leading to heightened costs for both healthcare providers and patients (Online Healthcare MBA, 2021). The essay advocates that preventive care, by catching health problems before they become acute, reduces the economic resources needed for treatment and ensures that citizens receive healthcare before requiring acute hospital care (Shrank et al., 2021).

In the United States, the healthcare system has historically been more reactive than proactive. Patients are often treated after the illnesses have reached an advanced stage, resulting in high costs for healthcare providers and patients (Online Healthcare MBA, 2021). The essay argues that a proactive approach to healthcare, focusing on preventive measures, would reduce the economic burden on the healthcare system and improve overall health outcomes. Preventive care, which includes screenings, patient counselling, and regular check-ups, is highlighted as a cost-effective strategy to catch health issues before they become acute (Shrank et al., 2021).

The economic implications of preventive care are significant. Preventive measures can keep healthcare costs low by averting the development of severe illnesses and reducing the need for acute hospital care (Online Healthcare MBA, 2021). This proactive strategy is seen as a practical means of curbing healthcare expenditure and ensuring the efficient utilization of resources.

**Fairness and Accessibility**

A critical aspect of the proposed shift is the promotion of health equity. The essay argues that a patient's financial capacity should not determine healthcare quality but should be accessible to all individuals, irrespective of their societal class (Kruk et al., 2018). This is particularly relevant in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, where issues of discrimination based on economic status, race, or ethnicity have come to the forefront (Shrank et al., 2021). By refocusing on preventive healthcare measures and ensuring universal access, the essay contends that the healthcare system can be redefined to enhance fairness and accessibility for all.

The current healthcare system often results in healthcare quality being associated with the patient's financial means. This has led to the rich having better access to quality healthcare, making the right to health seem meaningless (Kruk et al., 2018). The essay advocates for rediscovering healthcare to prioritize fairness and accessibility, irrespective of societal classes. The COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted disparities in healthcare access based on economic status, race, and ethnicity, serves as a poignant example of the urgent need for reform in this regard (Shrank et al., 2021).

**Feasibility and Technology**

The feasibility of preventive healthcare is underscored by leveraging technology, specifically through telemedicine. Technology, including telemedicine, is hailed as a fast, low-cost, and virtual pathway for effective communication between patients and healthcare practitioners, especially in crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Shokri et al., 2023). This approach not only reduces patients' risks from contagious diseases but also lessens the daily workload on healthcare workers, making disease management and prevention more feasible.

The incorporation of technology, particularly telemedicine, is identified as a key enabler of the feasibility of preventive healthcare measures. According to research done by Shokri Faziollah, 2023, the COVID-19 encounter clearly indicates that healthcare facilities should adopt proper methods to prevent and treat illnesses. Systems were developed that allow consumers access to global healthcare information through the Internet, showing that telemedicine can be applied in curbing illnesses before they get acute (Shokri et al., 2023). The primary purpose of using telemedicine and technology is to ensure that disease management and prevention are feasible. The COVID-19 pandemic further emphasized the role of technology in healthcare, with systems being developed to allow consumers access to global healthcare information through the Internet (Shokri et al., 2023).

When countries invest in lifestyle changes, community-based interventions, and vaccinations, there will be a massive reduction in preventable diseases, which means fewer resources are dedicated to treating the illnesses. The number of deaths from the illnesses will gradually reduce. Preventing diseases instead of treating them after they have occurred helps people to live their best possible lives. Additionally, it minimizes any strain on funds allocated for health purposes and increases equity for patients who suffer from chronic illnesses (Department of Health and Social Care, 2018).

**Personal and Societal Responsibility**

The essay emphasizes the need for a shift in individual and societal mindsets towards a preventive healthcare approach. Individuals are encouraged to take personal responsibility through primary prevention activities such as taking supplements, ensuring vaccinations, and adopting healthy lifestyles. At the societal level, community outreach programs and educational campaigns are advocated to create an environment that promotes proactive and healthy behaviors (WHO, 2023). The success of preventive healthcare hinges on individual and societal responsibility. Individuals are urged to adopt a preventive healthcare mindset, taking proactive steps such as adhering to a healthy lifestyle and ensuring necessary vaccinations. This personal responsibility extends to communities where outreach programs and educational campaigns can play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of health and well-being (WHO, 2023).

**Impact on Acute Hospital Care and Chronic Diseases:** The proposed shift is positioned to positively impact acute hospital care. By implementing measures to prevent the spread of diseases, the burden on acute hospitals is anticipated to decrease, allowing them to focus on treating existing patients and preventing further disease transmission (Godard-Sibilate et al., 2019). The essay highlights chronic illnesses, particularly dementia, as a significant contributor to acute hospital care visits. Given the absence of a cure for dementia, the need for effective prevention and management strategies is emphasized (Dona et al., 2021).

Preventive healthcare is identified as a means to impact acute hospital care positively. By implementing measures that prevent the spread of diseases, the burden on acute hospitals can be significantly reduced, allowing for a more focused approach to treating existing patients and preventing further transmission (Godard-sibilate et al., 2019). Chronic illnesses, such as dementia, are acknowledged as joint contributors to acute hospital care visits. Given the lack of a cure for dementia, the importance of prevention and effective management strategies is underscored (Dona et al., 2021).

**Population Health and Economic Implications**

Beyond individual and societal benefits, the proposed paradigm shift contributes to population health and economic growth. A healthier population is projected to be more productive, lowering unemployment rates and reducing strain on healthcare resources (Smith et al., 2019). The economic benefits extend to governments, as a healthier population requires fewer resources allocated to healthcare, thereby positively impacting overall economic growth.

The shift towards preventive healthcare is positioned as a catalyst for improved population health and economic growth. A healthier population is anticipated to be more productive, translating into lower unemployment rates and decreased pressure on healthcare resources (Smith et al., 2019). From a governmental perspective, the economic benefits are evident, with a healthier population demanding fewer resources for healthcare, ultimately fostering positive economic growth.

**Stakeholder Collaboration**

Collaboration with stakeholders is fundamental in transitioning from acute hospital care to preventive and chronic disease-focused healthcare. Stakeholders play a crucial role in providing economic oversight, assessing feasibility, and offering valuable feedback for improvement. Open communication and addressing concerns are highlighted as essential elements of engaging stakeholders effectively in this transformative process (Al-murani et al., 2019).

The involvement of stakeholders is emphasized as pivotal in successfully transitioning towards a healthcare model centred on prevention and chronic disease management. Stakeholders bring valuable economic oversight, evaluating the feasibility of the proposed shift and providing critical feedback for continuous improvement. The essay stresses the importance of open communication and addressing concerns to ensure a collaborative and effective transition (Al-murani et al., 2019).

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the essay advocates for a transformative shift in healthcare towards preventive care and chronic disease management. Although presenting challenges, the proposed paradigm is positioned as a strategic approach to creating a fair, cost-effective, and sustainable healthcare system. Many challenges exist in the assimilation of a preventive healthcare system, but long-term benefits to society exist in terms of health and economic growth of the society are created. Societies can build resilient healthcare systems that can quickly meet the needs of future generations by nurturing and incorporating preventive healthcare strategies. This holistic approach is viewed as instrumental in fostering overall health and contributing to sustained economic growth.

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