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Recommended Citation

Anderson, Ian, "The United States Should Have a Universal Healthcare System" (2021). *Student Research Poster Presentations 2021*. 57.

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The United States Should Have a Universal Healthcare System

Ian Anderson, Student Nurse

INTRODUCTION

The current United States of America healthcare system is fragmented and uncoordinated due to our restriction of healthcare and the further development of specialized practices. These contribute a higher cost and less quality of care. The current system focuses on interventions to treat an illness, rather than prevention to inhibit the illness from ever happening. In December of 1948, the United Nations passed a bill that codified our human rights, including the essential right to health (Healthcare as a Human Right). All other industrialized countries in the world that signed this bill has adopted a universal health care system. All except for one – the United States of America.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and the Children's Health Insurance Program

- the uninsured population in the United States was only 8.8% (Healthcare For All, 2019). This was a very significant decrease from what it was before these bills were passed, which was around 17%.

After some rollbacks of policies

- the uninsured rate is back up to 15.5% (Healthcare for All, 2019).

A right to healthcare can save lives:

- Just by being uninsured, the risk of mortality increased by 40%. Out of the 16 richest nations, the United States ranked last in preventable mortality (ProCon.org, 2019)

POSITION STATEMENT

The U.S should opt-in for universal health care. Lack of healthcare results in poorer health for individuals, communities, and the entire nation by limiting opportunity, health, and the ability to live with dignity and freedom.

SUPPORT FOR POSITION

A right to healthcare can make medical services more affordable.

- 64% of Americans stated they delayed or did not seek medical care due to cost (ProCon.org, 2019)

Healthier people contribute to a growing and positive economy.

- By being healthier, people will miss less days of work due to illness. Also, by being healthier, people can function at their highest level because their health allows for it (ProCon.org, 2019)

The Declaration of Independence

- "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" cannot be attained without good health (ProCon.org, 2019)

It was first proposed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his drafting of the Second Bill of Rights

- These never got passed because of his death.

Millions of Americans lack healthcare which results in a lesser quality of life and less health for communities. Human rights are those that help the citizens live a life full of dignity and freedom. Without access to a universal healthcare, how can we be expected to live as intended, let alone live at all?

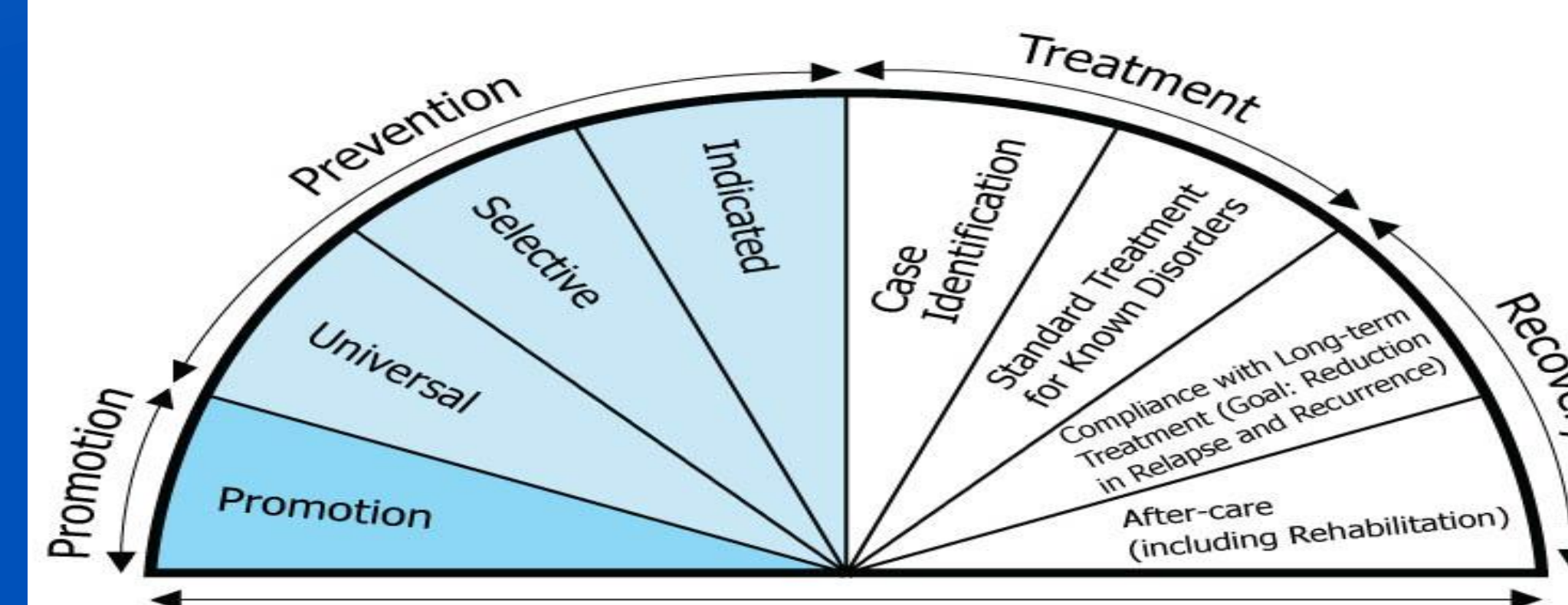
IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

To adapt to a universal health care system in the U.S, there has to be a change in the way nurses and other healthcare professionals treat people.

Current professionals find that they have difficulty providing care due to "individualism, complaint-conduct, and fractionation of therapeutic arts" (Schweitzer, 2016).

In order to switch to a different system, we have to look at the patient holistically by means of effective listening, accountability, patient-caregiver bonding, use of technology, and the goal of promoting healthy behaviors which will lead to an improved quality of life (Schweitzer, 2016).

Some of the barriers to achieving universal healthcare that professionals noted are, "lack of working conditions, inadequate conceptions of the health-disease, unjust social conditions of the community and workers' predetermined about the health users" (Schweitzer, 2016).



(The Institute of Medicine protractor, 1994)

This graphic points out that the earliest care in the continuum of care is universal prevention. our current system instead chooses to focus on individual treatment.

CONCLUSION

There is clearly a problem with the healthcare system in the U.S. Year after year there is a growing mortality rate that can be attributed to lack of health insurance throughout the population. As stated before, the U.S is one of the only developed nations that does not have universal healthcare but ironically, the origins of universal healthcare is here in the U.S. Once we have universal healthcare, U.S citizens will not be limited to live with good; opportunity, health, dignity and freedom.

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