

## SYNOPSIS

On “Health Economics”  
for the students from specialty “Dental Medicine” from Medical University – Plovdiv

- 1. Introduction to the theory of economics.** Nature and scope of the economics - basic definitions and sections. Functions and methodology of economics. Main problems of the economy. Basic forms of organization of the economy.
- 2. Health economics as a scientific discipline.** Origin and development of the discipline of health economics. Concept, method and tasks of health economics. Working concepts of health economics.
- 3. Basic outlines from the common market theory.** Key market categories - good, price, utility, competition. Demand and supply. Elasticity of demand and supply. Market equilibrium. Consumer and producer surpluses. Market failures.
- 4. Market categories in health.** Defining the demand and supply of health. Factors determining the demand and supply in the health sector. Defects of the free market in health care. Regulation of market in health care.
- 5. Public and private health services/goods.** Public goods - nature and types. Characteristics of public health services. Defects of the government production of health services. Private health services. Public-private health care system.
- 6. Financing of health.** Sources of financing – definition and typology. Gross National and Gross domestic product – definition and envelopment. Real and nominal GDP, economical growth. Health expenditure and its mix of financing.
- 7. Taxes and taxation.** Major definitions and theories of taxes. Functions and principles of taxation. Methods of taxation. The burden of taxation.
- 8. Health insurance.** Definition and historical development. Feature of health insurance systems. Elements of health insurance systems. Models of health insurance. Health insurance in Bulgaria.
- 9. Value and price in health.** Features of the prices in health care. Types of prices in health system and their regulation. Methods of pricing. Economic structure of the cost components of medical services. Production costs - fixed and variable. Break-even point. Direct and indirect costs in the healthcare activities.
- 10. Allocation and disbursement of funds for the healthcare providers.** Requirements for the payment systems of healthcare providers. Classification of the payment systems. Characteristics of the main payment systems.
- 11. The dental care as a part of outpatient system.** Specific features of dental services, demand and supply of dental care. Financing of dental care – sources and methods.
- 12. Efficiency of health.** Definition of efficiency. Different types of efficiency in health. Methods for determining the level of efficiency – cost-minimization, cost-effectiveness, cost-utility and benefit-cost analyses.

## Literature

1. Culyer A. & Newhouse J. (editors), 2000. Handbook of Health Economics, Volume 1A, Elsevier.
2. Culyer A. & Newhouse J. (editors), 2000. Handbook of Health Economics, Volume 1B, Elsevier.
3. Drummond, M. et. al. 2005. Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programs, 3-rd edition, Oxford University Press Inc., New York.
4. Feldstein, P,J 2011. Health Care Economics, 7-th edition, Cengage Learning.
5. Phelps, CE, 2012. Health Economics, 5-th edition, Prentice Hall.
6. Getzen, T., 2013. Health Economics and Financing, 5th ed., John Wiley & Sons.