GENERAL REVIEW OF FACTORS RELATED TO THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY-ETC(U)

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A GENERAL REVIEW OF FACTORS RELATED TO THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY PROCESS: A WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY

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A General Review of Factors Related to
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A Working Bibliography

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Abstract

This review represents a cross-section of recent research regarding factors related to the health care delivery process. Over 800 references are included, and were selected because of their relevance to and implications for behavioral science research, theory, and applications. In light of increasing professional opportunities for psychologists in the health care process, the articles included were additionally organized into 10 different major topic areas felt to be relevant to a wide range of behaviorally oriented interests, and should be useful in identifying future efforts.
A General Review of Factors Related to
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A Working Bibliography

The American Health Care industry is experiencing tremendous
growth. Indeed, Taylor (1978) noted that more than $100 billion
dollars per year is invested in this industry. While this invest-
ment has resulted in major improvements in the quality of care,
it has produced determined pressures to reduce the financial burden
of that care. These often conflicting demands, combined with
pressures to increase the availability of health care, have led
many administrators, planners, and providers to seek new approaches
and alternatives to the current health care process. Given the
scope of the problem it is hardly surprising that the health care
industry is directing greater attention to areas of expertise that
are not viewed as traditional parts of the health care field. Such
redirection of attention provides a valuable opportunity for behavioral
science research to become an integral contributor to future
health care planning.

The present effort represents an initial attempt to review
existing behavioral science research and theory that has been
applied to the provision of health care. A primary goal was to
obtain and make available to others a representative sample of the
relevant literature. A second but equally important goal was to
generate a list of major topic areas that have captured research
interest. Finally, it was hoped that this effort would indicate
the extent of ongoing activity in each basic area and would thus
guide future research and theoretical development into the most
needed and viable areas.

As these statements imply, our emphasis was on the representativeness rather than the comprehensiveness of the review. First, we concentrated on research published within the past 10 years. Second, we did not conduct an exhaustive review of any one journal, but rather examined a cross-section of sources likely to contain the widest range of relevant research and issue-related articles. This cross-section included journals in the behavioral, management, and medical sciences, as well as journals primarily directed to health care administrators, nurses, and other supporting professionals. A concerted effort was made to locate and include dissertations, theses, technical reports, and other research reports not easily available to all researchers. The final bibliography includes 800 references organized into ten major topic areas: (a) issues affecting patient access to care, (b) social, environmental, and individual factors affecting morbidity, (c) the role of the patient in the health care process, (d) attitudes of patients, physicians, staff, and community members related to the health care process, (e) the training and development of the health care professional, (f) general structural characteristics of the health care delivery process, (g) the treatment milieu, (h) evaluation of health care services, (i) health care planning, and (j) additional readings of interest. Within each of these categories, articles were further subdivided as indicated in the Bibliographic Outline/Table of Contents.

In conclusion, we echo Taylor's (1978) comment that the opportunities for behavioral researchers to apply their special
skills and talents in the health care system area have never been better. We are optimistic that behavioral research efforts can make valuable contributions toward resolving the problems currently plaguing the health care process. Potential areas of involvement include but are not restricted to (a) social-organizational factors underlying the etiology of illness, (b) preventive care and patient utilization of hospital services, (c) patient education, including self-care and counseling, and (d) improved doctor-patient relationships. We hope that this review will illustrate the variety of areas available for involvement and thus contribute to future efforts.
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e. Cost Effectiveness


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e. Cost Effectiveness (Cont.)


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f. Peer Review


VIII. EVALUATION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES


g. Medical Records


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h. Methodological Issues in Evaluation


VIII. EVALUATION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

h. Methodological Issues in Evaluation (Cont.)


VIII. EVALUATION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

h. Methodological Issues in Evaluation (Cont.)


IX. HEALTH CARE PLANNING


IX. HEALTH CARE PLANNING (Cont.)


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This review represents a cross-section of recent research regarding factors related to the health care delivery process. Over 800 references are included, and were selected because of their relevance to and implications for behavioral science research, theory, and applications. In light of increasing professional opportunities for psychologists in the health care process, the articles included were additionally organized into 10 different major topic areas felt to be relevant to a wide range of behaviorally oriented interests, and should be useful in identifying future efforts.