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Real People and Health Care

Our close friend, Grandmother Mae Hansley, an elderly citizen of the United States still feels and believes that health care has been fair to her so far. Riddled with ailments and the onslaught of old age, Grandma Mae is diagnosed with arthritis, the unpleasant fortune of two bad knees, and past injuries from car accidents. However she is well off in terms of health care which consists of Blue Cross Blue Shield and Medicare. Paying mainly from her pocket, Grandma Mae and her husband choose and decide what type of physicians they see and have consistently been treated fairly in the health system. However for every pleasant experience with the health system there is always another who has felt the burden of the rising costs in health care.

Health care has become increasingly essential to the elderly citizens of the community. Especially for Grandma Mae, who in the last year has visited the physician several times and even once for knee surgery. This is not to mention the several days it took her to recover from surgery including the physical therapy required to aiding her in properly walking again. It is virtually know that the cost of a hospital room a day can run up an easy bill of several hundreds dollars; the stay of a week can total to an enormous figure in the thousands. Without insurance, a person can be in debt for the rest of their lives paying medical bills. Fortunately Grandma Mae has not experienced any difficulties

in paying her medical bills. Having had surgery twice already she has emerged stronger from each experience. Despite the physician's diagnosis that she would be in a wheel chair for the rest of her life, she defied him and willfully taught herself how to walk again. She has paid a small fraction to what the original bill would be and is covered by her insurance. Yet the same cannot be said for her sister who is covered but has suffered such an injury that it is unlikely that insurance will pay the majority. Today her sister is still at the hospital recovering from a neck and spinal injury. Grandma Mae replies that it is somewhat unlikely that her sister's insurance will cover most of her medical bills at the hospital. In contrast to her agreeable past history with her insurance are the several pitfalls prevalent in the health industry today such as that of her sister's case.

Importantly, Grandma Mae suspects that the increase in cost of medical care stems from the exorbitant and excessive salaries paid to the administrators of the medical industry whereas nurses and doctors receive the raw end of the deal. However, finding the solution to the unequal distribution of wealth is a complex problem even she fails to see a solution. Health care should be provided to those who earn and deserve the privilege. Citizens that work and contribute to common society are deservedly worthy of health care. Yet even those who work are unable to afford the means to obtain health insurance. At this point, government intervention is a preferable means for assisting those who are unable to fully purchase insurance. However, the government should not be the sole provider of health care, a small amount should be contributed by the citizen who seeks the insurance. Through a combination the working citizen and the government should health care thus be provided. Those who can and are able to pay for their health

care should do so while those who do work but fall short of the financial means should receive the aid of the government while paying a portion of the share as well.

Furthermore, the high costs of medication are weaknesses in this nation's health care industry. For someone facing serious and several different types of medical problems, medication is necessary but very expensive.

Health care has always been a difficult issue in the United States. How to provide for and pay for health care without the system being cheated is a puzzle that has yet to be solved. One can hope that only those who are deserving should receive health care but who is to say who deserves to live and who does not? Even with her wisdom, Grandma Mae has no answers.