2014 Global health care sector outlook

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited's yearly look at the topics and trends in the health care sector, stakeholder considerations, and local market updates.

Sector overview

Global health care spending as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will average 10.5% globally in 2014.



Emerging markets including China, India, Indonesia, Russia, and Mexico are expected to see spending increase quickly over the next five years.

Growth drivers

Health care spending 5.3% annual spending increase on health expected globally over next five years.



Demographics

The global population age 60 or above is expected to more than triple by 2050.

Top issues and trends

Issue one: Aging population and chronic diseases

- Current growth rate of the older population, at 1.9 percent, is significantly higher than that of the total population at 1.2 percent.
- Chronic diseases are, by far, the leading cause of mortality in the world, representing 63 percent of all deaths.

Issue two: Cost and quality

- United States spends \$8,508 per person on health care, nearly \$3,000 more per person than Norway, the second-highest spender.
- 23 percent of U.S. adults and 13 percent of adults in France either had serious problems paying medical bills or were unable to pay them.
- 1.7 million patients develop infections while in the hospital, and 99,000 die as a result in the U.S.

Issue three: Access to care

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- More than one billion people worldwide lack access to a health care system.
 - There will be a shortage of 230,000 physicians across Europe in the near future.
 - The number of caregivers in 36 countries in Africa is inadequate to deliver even the most basic immunization and maternal health services.
 - Uneven distribution of caregivers is also a problem. Developed countries increasing, but emerging markets struggling to keep up.

Issue four: Technology



- Advances in health technologies and data analytics can help facilitate new diagnostic and treatment options but need to contain these new expenditures by restructuring care delivery models and promoting more efficient use of resources.
- Adoption of new digital health information technologies (HIT) is driving change in the way physicians, payers, patients and other sector stakeholders interact.
 - Electronic medical records (EMRs),
 - Telemedicine
 - Mobile health (mHealth) applications
 - Electronic medical prescriptions
- Need to focus on security, privacy and patient safety in addressing new technology.

