

Works Cited

- Bodenheimer, Thomas S. "Affordable Prescriptions for the Elderly." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 286 (2001): 1762-1763. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Mar. 2007. This article argues that the lack of prescription drug coverage for the elderly prevents them from seeking the care that they need. After a doctor prescribes a prescription medication some people experiencing financial difficulties admitted that they never had the prescription filled because they could not afford it. This article details the increased risks of future medical conditions and even death for the patients who don't fill the prescriptions that their doctors prescribe for them.
- Calder, Kimberly. "Finding Lower-Priced Prescription Drugs." *Inside MS* 23 (2005): 49-52. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Mar. 2007. This article offers tips for finding lower-priced prescription drugs in the United States. It explains the use of existing benefit plans. Also, it offers information about patient assistance programs and how to find them. The article also details the benefits and risks of purchasing prescription medications from countries such as Canada.
- Chauncey, Danielle, Daniel C. Mullins, Bac V. Tran, Diane McNally, and Robert N. Mcewan. "Medication Access through Patient Assistance Programs." *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* 63 (2006): 1254-1259. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Mar. 2007. The retail cost of prescription medications has increased putting a bigger burden on Americans. This article details some of the different patient assistance programs offered by drug companies to help with rising costs of medications. Many of these programs are funded through state funds and donations from sponsors.
- Christenson, Vonn. "Drug Companies Offer Major Discounts to Uninsured." *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 33 (2005): 399-403. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Mar. 2007. This article reports that ten of the leading drug companies have joined together to offer a health-care card for the uninsured. The card provides significant savings on prescription drugs in the United States. There are currently 45 million Americans who do not have any health insurance coverage.
- Fine, Allan. "Medical Costs Lead More People to Bankruptcy." *Managed Care Quarterly* 13 (2005): 22. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Mar. 2007. This article reports that three-fifths of people who declared bankruptcy for medical reasons actually had health insurance when they became sick. However, when they became sick they had to quit their jobs, ultimately losing their insurance. The article also reports that sixty percent of those people that had declared bankruptcy skipped needed doctor visits because they could not afford them. Also, almost forty-seven percent did not fill the prescriptions they needed because of the costs.
- Heisler, Michele, Todd H. Wagner, and John D. Piette. "Patient Strategies to Cope with High Prescription Medication Costs: Who is Cutting Back on Necessities, Increasing Debt, or Underusing Medications?" *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* 28 (2005): 43-51. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 27 Mar. 2007. This article details

that some people who have a hard time paying for medications cut back on food, heat, and other necessities in order to pay for the medications they need. Other people increase their debt or underuse the medications they are prescribed. Also, the article says that the biggest burden of paying for medication is placed on people with low incomes, poor health, and people taking multiple medications.

Meara, Ellen, Chapin White, and David M. Cutler. "Trends in Medical Spending by Age." *Health Affairs* 23 (2004): 176-183. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Mar. 2007. This report details the amount of money that households spend on medical care. It includes graphs and charts of compiled data collected from surveys of different age groups in America. The article clearly depicts the rise in medical spending by all age groups. In particular, it shows that the amount of money Americans under age 65 spend on prescriptions has more than tripled since 1987.

Robin, Weinick M., Byron C. Stephen, and Bierman S. Arlene. "Who Can't Pay for Health Care?" *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 20 (2005): 504-509. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Mar. 2007. As health care costs rise many Americans have a difficult time paying for care they need. This article reports that some Americans choose not to get the medical care they need because they can't afford it. Also, this article details proposals to expand health insurance to those who don't have it.

Webster, Paul. "Controlling the Costs of US Health Care." *Lancet* 367 (2006): 639-640. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Mar. 2007. This article reports that the United States health care system is the most expensive in the world. It also reports that our current system, with both public and private insurance systems, costs taxpayers more than the citizens of other countries that have a national health insurance system. It also reports on President George Bush's plan for improving prescription drug benefits.

Young, Donna. "Importation Reports Spur More Debate About Drug Prices." *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* 62 (2005): 233-234. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 27 Mar. 2007. This article argues that there are significant risks of purchasing prescription drugs outside of the United States. It argues that Americans should use lower-priced generic alternatives or drug discount cards. It also argues that putting price controls on drug companies would allow more people to fill the prescriptions that they need.