

## Underlying Financial Concepts Supplementary Materials

1. Time Magazine – Steven Brill – 4Apr13 – Bitter Pill: Why Medical Bills Are Killing Us.

A scathing indictment of medical billing in the United States, focused around the billing (and profit-making) practices of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. In theory, Anderson is a non-profit care delivery center that serves the community to justify its tax-exempt status, while making a 25+% operating margin. This article nicely summarizes some of the concepts of medical financial systems, through the lens of a newspaper reporter writing in layman's terms.

Link: <https://time.com/198/bitter-pill-why-medical-bills-are-killing-us/>

2. Missouri Medicine – Gale – May13 – Editorial- Bitter Pill: An analysis of Steven Brill's Time Magazine article.

Insightful further comment on Brill's article, adding important detail around some principles.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6179832/>

3. Natl Public Radio Fresh Air – interview of Steven Brill – 5Jan15 – 'America's Bitter Pill' makes case for why health care law 'won't work'.

Shortly after Yale professor Steven Brill wrote his famous Time Magazine article Bitter Pill, has was hospitalized with a life-threatening condition that required heart surgery. He went on to write a book (entitled America's Bitter Pill) summarizing his findings, his experience as a patient, and conclusions he drew across those areas. This transcription of an NPR interview summarizes those experiences and conclusions.

Link: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/01/05/375024427/americas-bitter-pill-makes-case-for-why-health-care-law-wont-work>

4. ProPublica – Allen – 5Sep20 – An Austin doctor got a COVID-19 test from his own company. They billed his insurance company nearly \$11,000.

A more recent example of 'out of network' grossly inflated billing practices, explaining how some care delivery companies routinely perform and get away with outlandish billing. Tracks the problem back to the massive complexity of the health care financial system.

Link: <https://www.propublica.org/article/a-doctor-went-to-his-own-employer-for-a-covid-19-antibody-test-it-cost-10-984>