Reading Summaries 6

# Module 20: The Big Answer

* In current society our leaders propose small changes to try and improve healthcare, such as improving insurance coverage for vlnerable populations, electronic medical records, and wider access to generic drugs, but these are likely to small to fix our problem.
* Healthcare prices are rising at an alarming pace and that is having a myriad of unwanted consequences: companies laying off implies to offset increasing healthcare costs, governments cutting insurance benefits, etc. Ultimately all of these changes put more pressure on the individual’s financial situation. Even with insurance some people are having trouble paying their bills.
* It is now more important than ever to do anything because it will soon become a problem not only to the people, but to big business and the government. Some of the things we could do include:
  + Eliminating geographic variation in the utilization of services
  + Institute a single-payer system
  + Address social determinants of health, such as poverty and gaps in education
* Fortunately some in government have proposed a shift in focus from a healthcare system focused on disease treatment and management to one based upon the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the provention of chronic disease. Unfortunately, however, they have not received widespread support, and in some cases some governments have opted for reducing the funding that goes towards health promotion initiatives.