

1. "Health Insurers Target the Individual Market," by M. P. McQueen (\_Wall St. Journal\_, August 21, 2007, P. D1).

Note: Full Text of the Wall St. Journal is available, for a fee, at: <http://www.wsj.com/>

Full Text is also available (usually on a one day delay) via the ProQuest Newspaper Library, for the Eastern Edition only. These articles are taken from the Midwest Edition. Do a "guided search" on article title words for the date of the article.

2. CALIFORNIA NEWS: "Same-sex pension benefits won for ILWU members," by Josh Richman (\_San Jose [CA] Mercury News\_, August 23, 2007). [http://www.mercurynews.com/alamedacounty/ci\\_6695942](http://www.mercurynews.com/alamedacounty/ci_6695942)

3. AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT: "Managing long-term conditions" (August 2007, .pdf format and rich text format [.rtf] 36p.). <http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/pubs2007htm>  
Scroll to Aug. 16, 2007 item.

4. "Learning From History: Deinstitutionalization of People with Mental Illness As Precursor to Long-Term Care Reform," by Chris Koyanagi(Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, August 2007, .pdf format, 22p.). <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7684.cfm>

5. "Stabilizing Future Fiscal Policy: It's Time to Pull the Trigger," by Rudolph G. Penner and C. Eugene Steuerle (August 2007, .pdf format, 32p.). <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=411524>

6. NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH: "The Value of Life Near its End and Terminal Care," by Gary Becker, Kevin Murphy, and Tomas Philips on(w13333, August 2007, .pdf format, 21p).

Abstract: Medical care at the end of life, which is often estimated to contribute up to a quarter of US health care spending, often encounters skepticism from payers and policy makers who question its high cost and often minimal health benefits. It seems generally agreed upon that medical resources are being wasted on excessive care for end-of-life treatments that often only prolong minimally an already frail life. However, though many observers have claimed that such spending is often irrational and wasteful, little explicit and systematic analysis exists on the incentives that determine end of life health care spending. There exists no positive theory that attempts to explain the high degree of end-of life spending and why differences across individuals, populations, or time occur in such spending. This paper attempts to provide the first rational and systematic analysis of the incentives behind end of life care. The main argument we make is that existing estimates of the value of a life year do not apply to the valuation of life at the end of life. We stress the low opportunity cost of medical spending near ones death, the importance of keeping hope alive in a terminal care setting, the larger social value of a life than estimated in private demand settings, as well as the insignificance in quality of life in lowering its value. We derive how an ex-ante perspective in terms of insurance and R&D alters some of these conclusions.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W13333>

7. "Retirement and Consumption in a Life Cycle Model," by David M. Blau(Discussion Paper No. 2986, August 2007, .pdf format, 38p.).

Abstract: Consumption expenditure declines sharply at the time of retirement for many households, but the majority maintain a smooth consumption path. A simple life cycle model with uncertainty about the time of retirement can account for this pattern. A richer version of the model is calibrated to data from the Health and Retirement Study. The median change in consumption expenditure at retirement generated by the model is zero, while the mean is negative, matching the HRS data. However, the magnitude of the drop in consumption among households that experience a decline is too small in the model compared to the data.

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp2986.pdf>

8. PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS BIBLIOGRAPHY UPDATE: The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research PSID has recently added the following item to its bibliography. The entire bibliography can be searched or browsed in various ways at:

<http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/Publications/Bibliography/default.aspx>