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Subject: Recap | Being Seriously Ill In the U.S.: Financial and Healthcare Impacts

Event Recap

Being Seriously Ill in the U.S.: Financial and Healthcare Impacts

Presented in collaboration with The Commonwealth Fund

What is it like to be seriously ill in America today? A [recent poll](#) by the New York Times, the Commonwealth Fund, and the Harvard Chan School reveals that complex and chronic illness leaves many people—even those who have insurance—paying steep out-of-pocket costs for care that falls short. In this Forum, a panel of experts unpacked the poll findings and explored practical changes to help the most ill Americans.

Brief video clips

Even people with health insurance can face crippling costs if they get seriously ill, says Bob Blendon (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health/Harvard Kennedy School), according to the results of a New York Times/Commonwealth Fund/Harvard Chan School poll.

To keep people with complex and chronic illnesses out of a downward spiral of health crises, we need to overhaul the system that cares for them, says Robert Master (formerly of Commonwealth Care Alliance).

The full financial burden of serious illness isn't captured on medical bills, says Toyin Ajayi (Cityblock).

Dramatically escalating costs and high deductibles leave people with insurance still facing ruinous costs, says Eric Schneider (The Commonwealth Fund).

Panelists Bob Blendon (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Harvard Kennedy School), Eric Schneider (The Commonwealth Fund), Bob Master (formerly of Commonwealth Care Alliance), and Toyin Ajayi (Cityblock) share their solutions for better, more affordable care for people with complex and chronic illness.

[Being Seriously Ill in the U.S.: Financial and Healthcare Impacts](#), presented in collaboration with The Commonwealth Fund, occurred on Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

Expert Participants

[Toyin Ajayi](#)

Chief Health Officer and Co-Founder, Cityblock

[Robert Blendon](#)

Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Harvard Kennedy School

[Eric Schneider](#)

Senior Vice President for Policy and Research, The Commonwealth Fund

[Robert Master](#)

Founder and Former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Care Alliance

Moderator

[Margot Sanger-Katz](#)

Correspondent, The New York Times

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