

Fourth paper topics

Please answer the following question in three pages. Please turn in your answer to me by 10 am on Wednesday, November 25. (I'm trying to avoid sticking you with anything over the holiday; I'll listen to pleas for more time.)

This week, we looked at three models for greater government involvement in the health system: the government could own the hospitals and other major parts of the health system, as it does in the Veteran's Administration; the government could own the health insurance system, as it does in Medicare and Medicaid; or the government could own one competing health insurance plan, as it would under the public option. One important question about any of these options is: has the government done a good job with the programs it already has? In particular, we have seen Emanuel's complaints about Medicare.¹ Hacker refers to several papers that suggest the government has done a good job in managing Medicare, Medicaid, and the VA.² Look one of these papers up. Summarize it for me. Then tell me how far it goes to addressing Emanuel's complaints.

¹ Ezekiel J. Emanuel, *Healthcare Guaranteed* (2008, PublicAffairs), pp. 53-7.

² Jacob S. Hacker, "The case for public plan choice in national health reform," *Institute for America's Future* (2008), pp. 5-16.

