

**You're the Health Care Consumer**

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Use the article "What's Up at the Doc's?" (page 26) to answer the questions in Part 1. Then, write down your opinion about the issue in Part 2.

**Part 1: Comprehension Check**

1. What should you do if you feel really sick?
  - a. borrow your sister's medication.
  - b. make an appointment to see a doctor.
  - c. pick up an over-the-counter remedy at a drugstore.
  - d. Ignore your symptoms; maybe they'll go away.
2. In 2002, how many U.S. kids and teens didn't have health insurance?
  - a. 1 percent
  - b. 5 percent
  - c. 10 percent
  - d. 20 percent
3. How often should you get a medical checkup?
  - a. at least twice a year
  - b. at least once a year
  - c. at least every other year
  - d. at least every five years
4. Where can you go for free or low-cost health care?
  - a. community and school health centers
  - b. some hospitals
  - c. health clinics
  - d. all of the above
5. How do people get health insurance?
  - a. through their jobs
  - b. on their own
  - c. from the government
  - d. all of the above

**Part 2: Your Turn**

A. Health insurance works by using "risk pools." Basically, the fees paid by generally healthy people help cover the health care costs of those who are poor or very sick. Do you agree with this practice? Why or why not?

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B. Some feel that people with unhealthy lifestyles—those who smoke, don't exercise, or don't control their weight, for example—should pay more for health care, since these behaviors may increase health costs. What do you think?

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