**Chapter Exercises**

**PART I. INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTHCARE**

**CHAPTER 2: The Organizational Context of Healthcare Social Work Practice**

1. Continuum of care

Working in groups, identify agencies in your community that represent each level of the con­tinuum of care. Go out and visit a social worker who works in each of the levels and learn about the services they provide, the patients they see, and their role and working conditions.

2. Hospital utilization and costs

Visit the website for the Agency for Health Research and Quality. Search the site for information about hospitals by examining the report [“HCUP Facts and Figures: Statistics on Hospital-Based Care in the United States, 2009](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/factsandfigures/2009/highlights.jsp).

Determine the following:

* What trends occurred in hospitalization lengths of stay (LOS) in 2009?
* What were the aggregate costs of hospital care?
* What were the top three reasons for hospitalization?
* What were the most common conditions for uninsured hospital stays?
* What conditions incurred the highest aggregate costs?
* Who was the highest single payer for hospitalizations in 2009?

3. Organizational structure

Contact a hospital social worker in your community or invite him or her to class as a guest speaker. Ask how many social workers work at the facility? What is the role of the social worker at that facility? Is there is a centralized social work department or are social workers assigned to a nursing unit? How are they supervised? How do these conditions affect the work that they do? What are the pros and cons of these arrangements?