

Proposition de Corrigé / Sujet Mines Ponts "Testosterone"

Q1 / Why are these new clinics an issue?

The recent surge in testosterone clinics in the United States raises concerns because many operate with **uneven medical standards** and prioritize profit over patient safety. Furthermore, some prescribe treatment without thorough testing or in-person check-ups, using drugs from **unregulated sources** not approved by the FDA. This can lead to health risks such as **infertility**, especially among young men taking excessive doses. Last, aggressive marketing and subscription models encourage unnecessary long-term use, fueling a market **driven more by trends and influencers** than genuine medical need. (84 words)

Q2 / Should medical professionals be allowed to profit from the treatment of illness?

As healthcare costs soar in many developed countries and private clinics multiply, one could wonder whether financial gain for doctors aligns with their core mission to protect and heal patients. (30)

To start with, financial incentives can attract skilled professionals, drive doctors and medical organizations to innovate, adopt new technologies and improve the quality of care, by investing in costly equipment like robotic surgeons for example. What is more, private clinics can ease the pressure on struggling national public health service like the NHS in England, where there is an average two-year wait for hip replacement surgeries. (66)

However, sidelining patients unable to pay deepens health inequality and restricts access to healthcare. A recent survey found that 11% of Americans could not afford medication and medical treatment¹ and the Trump administration's intention to cut Medicaid and increase the cost of Obamacare plans is likely to exacerbate the issue.

In other words, to ensure that patient well-being, and not profit, remains the foundation of care, a balanced approach is to be favoured, with a regulation of private practices along with strong public health systems. (35)

Total: 193 words

- Another example: More and more English patients are going to Poland or Lithuania to get quicker surgery, unable to afford one at a private hospital in their own country, which costs £17,000 versus £7,000 in Lithuania. (63)
- Another argument: Prioritizing profit may lead some private clinics to concentrate on treatment over prevention and might result in poorer quality of care if the goal is to treat as many patients as possible, exemplified by the US kidney dialysis industry, lately accused of maximizing profits and failing to meet performance standards. Cf [*TV report CBS News July 2025 "Why the multibillion-dollar kidney dialysis industry is under fire"*](#)
- Another argument: the ongoing opioid crisis plaguing American society has proved how dangerous it is for medical professionals to be able to make profits on treatments, as illustrated by the over-prescription of opioids by corrupted doctors pressurized by pharmaceutical companies.

¹ Survey conducted by West Health and Gallup in December 2024.