

Evaluating Challenges and Opportunities for Healthcare Reform: A Book Review

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Timely and topical, especially with the monumental failure of our health care system in the face the ongoing COVID-19 crisis; this book dives into the significantly complex issue of health care reform the United States urgently needs to pursue. It gives a plethora of models, tools, and guidelines for transforming our dysfunctional health care system into one that provides patient-centered high value care for all. When comparing healthcare systems worldwide, the U.S. is certainly an outlier; spending magnitudes more as a percentage of GDP but falling behind in performance levels achieved by other high-income per capita countries. Evidence strongly support the notion that we should use other countries' approaches as models if we want to establish a high performing health care delivery system that is both affordable and serves all Americans. While this approach is highly attractive and logically sound, this book eloquently highlights the numerous barriers and outlines multiple reasons as to why simply copying another country's healthcare model would not succeed in the U.S.

Though "Free healthcare for all" sounds like an easy solution to the disparities within our healthcare system, it is not actually that easy. While equal access to quality care is an essential ongoing goal, government sponsored healthcare for all is not a panacea - those who think so should start reading this book. Costs of these healthcare services, how and by whom they can be paid for are small components of the large multifaceted problem that this book outlines. While highlighting the negative implications certain aspects of universal healthcare can create, the authors also attempt to tackle the problem of the current high costs and insufficient high-value care in our country. By selecting critical components from the best global healthcare systems in the world, especially those that are adaptable and suit the current U.S. market for being innovative and enhanced, a Hybrid US Healthcare Plan models could be developed. These models should be feasible, affordable and should also garner a wide range of support and acceptability.

While politics and policy constructing the overture of this book, the succeeding chapters allow for a nuanced yet widely approachable read among a broad audience, as authors provide models and protocols for health care system success along with convenient key terms and definitions at the end of every chapter. Healthcare workers, students, hospital administrations, policy advocates, and all in proximity to the field can begin contributing to reform both individually and as team-members using this book as a reference manual. Even as a prospective medical student I felt it was imperative to have a stronger understanding of the topics discussed in the chapters before I start my imminent journey to becoming a physician.

Throughout each chapter you can find groundbreaking studies and data regarding how to reform healthcare in all aspects possible. These include models of new medical insurance systems, current safety measures for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Affordable Care Act (ACA) implications, as well as patient/consumer-centric transformations.

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It also includes implementing telemedicine in rural areas, improving interprofessionalism in the workplace, and incorporating novel professional competence skills into the education of medical students.

This book leaves no stone left unturned; the authors do not simply pontificate, instead they include concrete strategies and measures for possible implementation of the models listed above.

For students, researchers and all stakeholders including those looking to navigate the labyrinthine network of healthcare reform, this book offers a comprehensive guide on where to start, what to change, which parts to keep, and most importantly, how to be part of the change.

As the book so eloquently points out, "*the best leaders are learners*" and we strongly agree; this book is a must read! Outstanding, cutting-edge knowledge, timely and topical, particularly with the transformation of the health care system, to a large part into e-medicine and telemedicine, topics that are extensively covered in this volume!

Reference

Evaluating Challenges and Opportunities for Healthcare Reform by Raj Selladurai (Indiana University Northwest, USA), Charlie Hobson (Indiana University Northwest, USA), Roshini Isabell Selladurai (In His Image Family Medicine Residency, Ascension St. John Medical Center, USA) and Adam Greer (Ascension St. John Medical Center, USA). ISBN13: 9781799829492, February 2020.

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