US Health Policy and Health Care Delivery

The unique composition and configuration of doctors and hospitals in the United States is leading to a crisis in primary care provision. There are significantly more specialists than generalists, and many community hospitals and outpatient facilities are concentrated in affluent areas with high rates of comprehensive insurance coverage. These particular features present difficult challenges to policymakers seeking to increase access to care. Carl F. Ameringer shows why the road to universal health care is not built on universal finance alone. Policymakers in other countries successfully align finance with delivery to achieve better access, lower costs, and improved population health. This book explains how the US health care system developed, and why efforts to expand insurance coverage in the absence of significant changes to health care delivery will fuel higher costs without achieving the desired results.

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_Doctors, Reformers, and Entrepreneurs_

CARL F. AMERINGER
For Suzanne, Caroline, and Katie
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Abbreviations

AAGP  American Academy of General Practice
AALL  American Association for Labor Legislation
ACO   Accountable Care Organization
ACP   American College of Physicians
ACS   American College of Surgeons
AHA   American Hospital Association
AMA   American Medical Association
ASC   Ambulatory Surgery Center
BME   Bureau of Medical Economics (American Medical Association)
CAH   Critical Access Hospital
CCMC  Committee on the Costs of Medical Care
CME   Council on Medical Education (American Medical Association)
CMS   Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
COGME Council on Graduate Medical Education
CON   Certificate of Need
CPT   Current Procedural Terminology (Codes)
DOJ   Department of Justice
DRG   Diagnosis-Related Group
FMC   Foundation for Medical Care
FTC   Federal Trade Commission
GP    General Practitioner
HMO   Health Maintenance Organization
IDS   Integrated Delivery System
IOM   Institute of Medicine

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Abbreviations

IPA  Independent Practice Association
MCO  Managed Care Organization
MSO  Medical Staff Organization
NHS  (British) National Health Service
NP   Nurse Practitioner
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPS  Oregon Physicians Service
PCP  Primary Care Physician
PPO  Preferred Provider Organization
PPS  Prospective Payment System
PSRO Professional Standards Review Organization