

Comparative Health Systems

The standard classifications of health systems do not allow for the complexity and variety that exists around the world. Federico Toth sets out a new framework for understanding the many ways in which health systems can be organized and systematically analyzes the health systems chosen by twenty-seven member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He provides a great deal of up-to-date data on financing models, healthcare spending, insurance coverage, methods of organizing providers, healthcare personnel, remuneration methods for doctors and hospitals, development trajectories and recent reforms. For each of the major components of the healthcare system, the organizational models and the possible variants from which individual countries can ideally select are defined. Then, based on the organizational solutions actually adopted, the various national systems are grouped into homogeneous families. With its clear, jargon-free language and concrete examples, this is the most accessible comparative study of international healthcare arrangements available.

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Comparative Health Systems

A New Framework

FEDERICO TOTH
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To Paolo

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Acronyms

| | |
|---------|---|
| AARP | American Association of Retired Persons (US) |
| AFL-CIO | American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (US) |
| AHIP | America's Health Insurance Plans (US) |
| AMA | American Medical Association |
| ARS | <i>Agences régionales de la santé</i> (France) |
| AWBZ | Dutch Exceptional Medical Expenses Act, <i>Algemene Wet Bijzondere Ziektekosten</i> |
| BMA | British Medical Association |
| CHIP | Children's Health Insurance Program (US) |
| CMU | <i>Couverture maladie universelle</i> (France) |
| CNAM | <i>Caisse nationale de l'assurance maladie</i> (France) |
| DHA | District Health Authority (UK) |
| DHB | District Health Board (New Zealand) |
| DRG | diagnosis-related group |
| EOPYY | Greek National Organization for Healthcare Provision |
| ESY | Greek National Health Service, <i>Εθνικό Σύστημα Υγείας</i> |
| EU | European Union |
| FEHB | Federal Employees Health Benefits (US) |
| FFS | fee-for-service |
| GDP | gross domestic product |
| GHIS | General Health Insurance Scheme (Turkey) |
| GKV | German Social Health Insurance Scheme, <i>Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung</i> |
| GP | general practitioner |
| HFA | Health Funding Authority (New Zealand) |
| HMO | Health Maintenance Organization |
| HSE | Health Service Executive (Ireland) |
| ISFAS | <i>Instituto Social de las Fuerzas Armadas</i> (Spain) |

| | |
|--------|--|
| LHN | Local Hospital Network (Australia) |
| MSA | medical savings account |
| MUFACE | <i>Mutualidad General de Funcionarios Civiles del Estado</i> (Spain) |
| MUGEJU | <i>Mutualidad General Judicial</i> (Spain) |
| NFZ | Polish National Health Fund, <i>Narodowy Fundusz Zdrowia</i> |
| NHS | National Health Service |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| PHN | Primary Health Network (Australia) |
| PhRMA | Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (US) |
| PKV | German Private Health Insurance Scheme, <i>Private Krankenversicherung</i> |
| RHA | Regional Health Authority (Canada) |
| SHI | social health insurance |
| THE | total health expenditure |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| VHA | Veterans Health Administration (US) |
| VHI | voluntary health insurance |
| WLZ | Dutch Long-Term Care Act, <i>Wet langdurige zorg</i> |
| ZVW | Dutch Health Insurance Act, <i>Zorgverzekeringswet</i> |

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