

Book: *Health Care USA: Understanding Its Organization and Delivery, Fourth Edition*

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Book Review

Health Care USA is a very easy-to-read introductory textbook, complete with an instructor's manual, mainly targeted at students in health services professions. The intent is to provide the reader with an understanding of the current health care system, and its complexities, within the United States. Individuals already in the market will benefit from the book by broadening their understanding of the market place and by assisting them with a review of a vision of the future of the medical market. The authors have written the book from a population health perspective, to maximize on what they deem as the future perspective of health care.

This book is an excellent introduction and is best read in sequence to incrementally add to the readers' comprehension of the material, as well as garner the flavor of the complexities that underlie the medical market. For individuals interested in immersing themselves in a certain topic the chapters can be read alone. Most chapters have a very thorough reference list that adds to the usefulness of the text as further research on related material can easily be accomplished. There is also a useful appendix of acronyms and a website of organizations and government agencies at the end of this book, which can aid as a quick reference for further studies or research.

The structure of the book begins with a basic overview and then moves into different sectors of the market; such as long term care, managed care, and mental health services, to mention a few. Some of the chapters do have overlapping ideologies from several other chapters. This can be viewed as either the authors attempt to drive home some of the ideas or to ensure those who read the text out of sequence maintain the flavor and ideas pertinent to grasping the material. Either way, the material is nicely written and easy to follow. The following is the table of content as outlined in the textbook:

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Overall, this book successfully discusses the complexities and the forces that impact the healthcare system. This edition also does an excellent job of presenting the impacts of the Balanced Budget Act and Hill-Burton. The intent of the textbook is to present the ideas in a general, but useful format allowing the reader to gain a deeper and clearer understanding and appreciation of the market's complexity; thus, this textbook does not provide details. The breadth of this book makes it a fantastic reference collection that can serve as a platform for preparing for professional certification when used with other books; such as *Health Care Administration: Planning, Implementing, and Managing Organized Delivery Systems*, 4th Edition, by Lawrence F. Wolper, which provides a thorough understanding of the market.