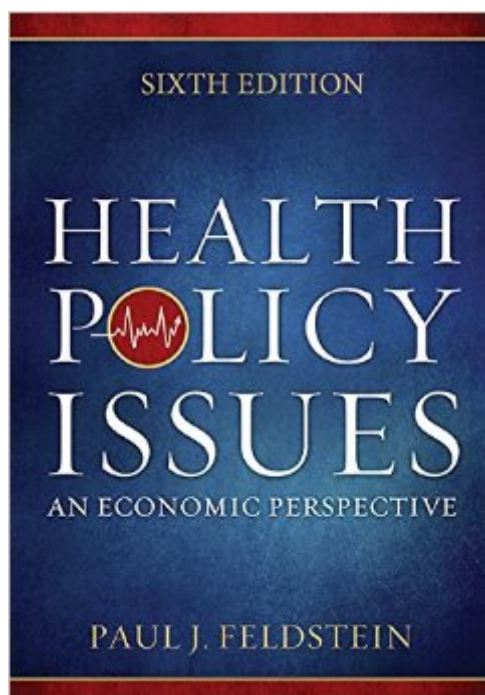


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Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective, Sixth Edition



Synopsis

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), the most significant public policy enacted in many years, affects all aspects of healthcare financing and delivery. *Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective*, Sixth Edition, has been thoroughly revised to explain the magnitude of this legislation and how it affects everyone, including physicians, hospitals, employers, employees, insurers, the uninsured, and state and federal governments. Renowned economist Paul Feldstein not only addresses the underlying issues and politics of healthcare but also explains why the health system has evolved to its current state. Thirty-six short, topical chapters give students a comprehensive overview of the delivery of medical services through a unique economic perspective. Reflecting the widespread implications of the ACA, specific components of the ACA are discussed in the context of many of the book's chapters. Consequently, the ACA is linked to topics such as: The rise of medical expenditures The high price of prescription drugs The impending shortage of physicians The future role of hospitals The evolution of managed care The new edition of this highly regarded book incorporates current events, recent data, and new research to promote classroom discussion about the more significant issues underlying the politics and economics of healthcare. Ideally suited for health policy and economics courses, this book encourages students to think critically and clearly about issues involving physicians, nurses, health insurance, competition, the pharmaceutical industry, and more. This book includes a glossary of terms and an appendix that briefly summarizes the ACA.

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Customer Reviews

Much of the information in the Medicaid and Affordable Care Act sections are inaccurate. The author clearly has a point of view about health politics and this shines through the writing throughout the book. While the overall concepts are clear, this book is in need of some significant editing.

I am using this book to teach a class on Shaping Health Policy at a major university. I searched for a suitable text that was both up to date and tried to explain the big picture rather than becoming totally mired in details. Some of the texts, frankly, put me to sleep. This is the best I found. The text basically covers the early implementation of the ACA though it did not deal with the most recent Medicare amendments (hardly its fault). The book has good problems for students to work through, some useful charts, and contains a valuable bibliography. It takes what I would describe as a classic liberal economic approach to the issues, although often that leads to conclusions that many of today's liberals may not like. The prose is clear and there are excellent teacher resources. It also contains useful chapters comparing the American system with those of other nations. There are two areas that may bother some people: (1) the book is opinionated; I would describe it as somewhat conservative in its orientation; (2) the book does not integrate legal citations into its analysis -- for those who want to find out exactly what the law says, this is a disadvantage. I also wish the book had a little more on the role of Intellectual Property in shaping Health Policy Issues. All in all, however, this is an outstanding book on an incredibly broad and challenging subject. It must have been a HUGE amount of work to write it.

This text is written from a strictly economic perspective of health policy. Everything is considered in terms of costs and benefits. This is a helpful viewpoint to have exposure to for future health professionals but one should keep that there are other arguments for distribution of health resources. The author is evenhanded and fair except for his views on the Canadian healthcare system. His tone seems to shift to become much more personal and emotional and he makes assumptions without providing evidence.

Some of the information in the book is inaccurate. Not a great textbook for graduate students.

This is a textbook for a class, but it is very easy to read. The concepts are easy to understand and the chapters are very short.

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