Reinventing American Health Care: How The Affordable Care Act Will Improve Our Terribly Complex, Blatantly Unjust, Outrageously Expensive, Grossly Inefficient, Error Prone System
Synopsis

The definitive story of American health care today—it's causes, consequences, and confusionsIn March 2010, the Affordable Care Act was signed into law. It was the most extensive reform of America’s health care system since at least the creation of Medicare in 1965, and maybe ever. The ACA was controversial and highly political, and the law faced legal challenges reaching all the way to the Supreme Court; it even precipitated a government shutdown. It was a signature piece of legislation for President Obama’s first term, and also a ball and chain for his second.Ezekiel J. Emanuel, a professor of medical ethics and health policy at the University of Pennsylvania who also served as a special adviser to the White House on health care reform, has written a brilliant diagnostic explanation of why health care in America has become such a divisive social issue, how money and medicine have their own quite distinct;American story, and why reform has bedeviled presidents of the left and right for more than one hundred years. Emanuel also explains exactly how the ACA reforms are reshaping the health care system now. He forecasts the future, identifying six mega trends in health that will determine the market for health care to 2020 and beyond. His predictions are bold, provocative, and uniquely well-informed. Health care—one of America’s largest employment sectors, with an economy the size of the GDP of France;has never had a more comprehensive or authoritative interpreter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ezekiel Emanuel just published an important book with a great title, "Reinventing American Health
Ezekiel Emanuel has written a very interesting book about the U.S. health care system. In the introduction, he tries to make sense of how three individuals were affected by this system. He then proceeds to get into the nitty-gritty of the American health care system beginning with its roots. The book is divided into three parts. In Part I we review the history of the American health care system, in Part II we explore the efforts to reform the system, and finally, in part III, we gaze into the crystal ball of the future. In the first part, he provides us with a brief history of healthcare in the U.S. It was interesting to learn how the employer-base system came to predominate in society. In the rest of the section we get a very detailed description of how healthcare is financed, who the providers are, how Americans get their healthcare, and interestingly, how this all works together to give us our current healthcare system. We are provided with many tables, charts, and diagrams, which provide some interesting statistics. In part two Emanuel discusses the history of health care reform. He first covers the history of health care from Teddy Roosevelt, to Franklin Roosevelt, to Truman, to Lyndon Johnson, and on to Clinton. Truman was a strong advocate for national health care but was stopped by the first Republican controlled Congress since 1932. Johnson did manage to introduce Medicare and Medicaid laws, and most can remember what happened to Clinton’s proposal. Interestingly
in 1971, there were 22 separate health insurance bills before Congress. Not one made it out of committee. We clearly see the difficult road that was followed to achieve some sort of national health care.

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