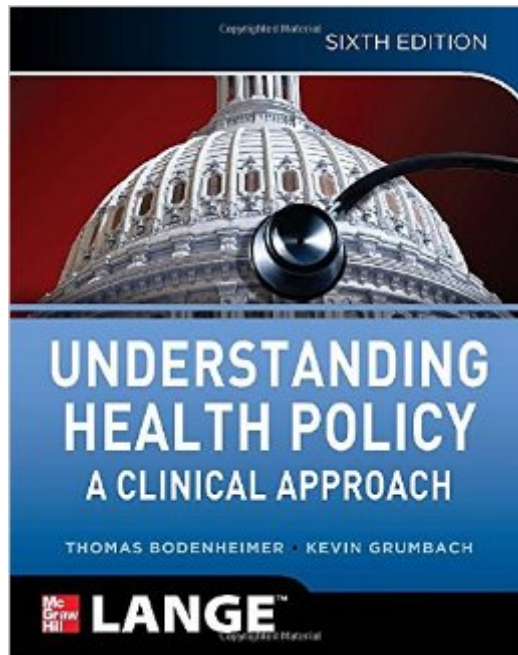


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# Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach



## Synopsis

Understand how the healthcare system works and how you can succeed in it. Covers the 2010 Affordable Care Act, a Doody's Core Title for 2015! The most trusted and comprehensive guide to healthcare available, *Understanding Health Policy* provides everything students and professionals need to build a solid foundation on the field's most critical issues. Expert practitioners in both the public and private healthcare sectors, the authors cover the entire scope of our healthcare system—from the concepts behind policy decisions to concrete examples of how they affect patients and professionals alike. *Understanding Health Policy, 6e* makes otherwise difficult concepts easy to understand so you can make better decisions, improve outcomes, and enact positive change on a daily basis.

**Features:** Coverage of structure, organization, and financing of the health care system. Key principles, descriptions, and concrete examples are skillfully interwoven in each chapter to make important issues interesting and understandable. Clinical vignettes clarify difficult concepts and demonstrate how they apply to real-world situations. Comprehensive list of review questions reinforce what you have learned. *Understanding Health Policy, 6e* will help you develop a clearer, more systematic way of thinking about health care in the United States, its problems, and the alternatives for managing and solving these problems.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As an MD/JD student who was already interested in health policy and advocacy for reform, this book was a terrifically concise and comprehensive look at US Health Policy. It reminded me of much

of what I already had learned from following the news and other sources, and introduced me to a plethora of knowledge based in historical and current policy. The organization of the book is superb, making what is a daunting and challenging subject easier to understand by approaching discrete topics while interlacing themes of financing, delivery, and political interests throughout the book. The patient and provider vignettes situated before each section don't seem contrived and provide a good perspective of how policy can affect everyday actors in the health system. The book presents multiple perspectives on health policy, and tells the hard truths when evaluating each, not shying away from criticizing the effects of profit-driven entities in the health care system while still remaining objective compared to many other voices for health reform. The chapter outlining the ways Canada, the UK, Germany, and Japan provide universal insurance coverage was also eye-opening, and should be required reading for anyone holding an opinion about how we should reform the US system. If you are someone who works in health care, has frequent encounters with the medical system, or has the capacity to influence how the system is run, read this book!

A comprehensive yet readable review of the U.S. healthcare system, and of the various policies that have been implemented and proposed to solve its problems. This is a textbook, and reads like one, though it is definitely more readable than most. Given the complexity of the subject, however, a clearly organized, carefully documented approach is probably a good thing. The authors cover all the bases, they are very clear, and they do not show any overt bias. (All readers might not agree with this: an extensive totting up of the results of our market oriented system does suggest that there is perhaps a better way). Very, very useful to this general reader who simply wanted to improve her understanding of the system.

**BRAVO.** I have been teaching courses in health care administration for over twenty years and have to say that this is the best text I have found that clearly explains America's complex health care system. Because media coverage of health care policy is superficial, most Americans don't understand how our health care system works, such as why health care is so costly to deliver, why all Americans don't have access to care, or why America falls behind other countries on a number of clinical indicators. Therefore, in addition to its target audience of students majoring in health related fields, this is an excellent book for anyone wanting to understand our health care system.

Very informative and up to date. Used it for a Policy & Politics of Healthcare class. Easy to understand. Covered all aspects of healthcare system from top to bottom, and explained the policies

behind them. I decided to buy, instead of renting because it seemed like a good book to have around for future classes in both the public health and health policy areas in which I am focusing on.

Very simple, straight forward, and clear ideas and absolutely packed with information. The best comprehensive book about health policy I have ever read. I highly recommend it as a text and reference.

The book tries to explain, though not necessarily support, a theory of "supplier-induced-demand" or that supply generates demand in the healthcare industry. ( It's at the end of Chapter 9.) I guess it says that once a promising diagnostic or prosthetic is available, many suffering people will want to benefit from it right away. Therefore, it follows that deliberately limiting the supply of breakthrough medical devices lengthens the patient waiting lines for it, discourages its use, and keeps costs down. It makes me wonder if the ACA tax on the MRI scanner is intended not only to raise revenue but to deliberately make the miracle device scarce and limit its use; that is, save money by lowering standards. Intentional or not, this is what is happening in Canada. It may sound cruel but many argue that this brute force approach does not significantly affect patient outcomes. Many of us are going to be shocked by techniques used by socialized medicine.

I don't usually write reviews, but I had to for this book. This book gives you a great, basic, "bare-bones" understanding of how healthcare works in the USA. It also discusses the systems of other countries and how they work. If you are on the fence about buying it- don't be- it will not disappoint you.

The authors speak from a broad range of experience. Excellent text. Surprisingly this is a very readable book. From someone who was not looking forward to this class, I have to say this book has made it one of my favorites.

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