


## Book Review

# Evaluating Challenges and Opportunities for Healthcare Reform

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The book, 'Evaluating Challenges and Opportunities for Healthcare Reform', represents a fresh look and forward-thinking review of critical issues regarding the state of the healthcare system in the United States. It is a compendium of articles, studies, meta-reviews and new ideas of the healthcare reform problem, as well as national/international solution attempts. It also acknowledges that healthcare reform needs continuous improvement toward developing a more optimal, sustainable healthcare system to benefit all the stakeholders and intends to add value to US healthcare system reform.

Several authors have written chapter/s from their very own personal experiences, perspectives, and interactions with the US healthcare system which is considered as one of the largest and one of the best in the world today. It is considered to be the source for several unique innovations, especially in the medical fields, and provides the best, high-quality care for those who need it at the right time. It also has some of the best physicians, nurses, researchers, and healthcare provider systems in the world.

Overall, the editors/authors argue that the US healthcare system is remarkably resilient, and continues to thrive despite all the dynamic factors that impact it, such as:

- The number of stakeholders.
- The complexity of healthcare.
- The large size of the country.
- The costs and quality-related issues.
- The partisan groups' conflicting priorities, views, and perspectives.

Their central argument is:

- To explore, analyze, discuss, and present various challenges and opportunities in healthcare reform.
- Evaluate some potentially new, revised, and improved models such as direct primary care (DPC), accounting care organizations (ACO), corporate partnerships models, and other optimal patient care related models.
- Suggest feasible policy recommendations toward a more sustainable national healthcare system.

Specifically, the objectives of the book consist of the:

- Comprehensive coverage of healthcare reform.
- Development of new models of healthcare system/s.
- Presentation of the views and perspectives of key stakeholders.

In this context, taking into account that a healthcare reform typically attempts to improve healthcare quality by focusing upon:

- Medical coverage increase
- Cost containment
- Insurance reform
- The philosophy of healthcare provision
- Funding
- Government involvement

The organization, coherence, cohesion, and mechanics of the book ‘Evaluating Challenges and Opportunities for Healthcare Reform’ appropriately substantiate the objectives of the editors as they explain the context of the healthcare reform connecting it to the broader development.

Specifically, Section 1 explores some innovative, new, enhanced healthcare models, including the latest shifts in healthcare toward patient-centricity and emerging transformations in the healthcare field. Section 2 addresses some of the challenges and opportunities that emerge in the discussions and decision-making deliberations of healthcare reform. In Section 3, authors have made some recommendations related to interprofessionalism, professionalism competence, and continuous improvement in the US medical education continuum.

Moreover, authors have tapped all available primary sources, including published documents as well as interviews and case studies. It is worth mentioning that the reference section at the end of each chapter is consistent, reinforce one another, justify the authors’ stance, and represent an up-to-datedness level. Among some unique aspects of the book is that several authors have written chapter/s from their very own personal experiences, perspectives, and interactions with the US healthcare system.

Finally, if we draw on the disruption of the healthcare system caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the challenge to grasp the COVID-19 opportunity to achieve both recovery and renewal of healthcare services, five priorities set out below might provide a framework to help guide the approach to renewal across health and care:

- The change in inequalities and population health.
- The reform of social care.
- Putting the workforce center stage.
- The embedment and acceleration of digital change.
- The reshaping the relationship between communities and public services.

Although beyond the scope of the book and with the learning curve on this topic still unfolding, the book ‘Evaluating Challenges and Opportunities for Healthcare Reform’ provides some useful insights which are related to the challenges and opportunities concerning telemedicine adoption.

Last but not least, the book is well-written, the editors have accomplished their purpose; the vision of the book is timely, its approach most needed. The content is immediately amenable to the evolving reform ideas regarding healthcare systems as well as previous reform discussions of the healthcare system, which could be summarized as follows:

- Use of comparative effectiveness research.
- Reform of doctor's incentives.
- Insurance reforms.
- Tax reform.
- Independent advisory panels.
- Lowering obesity.
- Rationing of care.
- Medical malpractice costs and limits on redress.
- Addressing the shortage of doctors, nurses and hospital capacity, and Medicare fraud.
- Single-payer payment system.
- Privatize Medicare with a voucher system.

*Anastasios Moutzoglou is a Former Executive Board Member of the European Society for Quality in Health Care, President of the Hellenic Society for Quality & Safety in Health Care, holds B.A in Economics, MA in Health Services Management, MA in Macroeconomics, Ph.D. in Economics. He teaches the module of quality at the graduate and postgraduate level. He has also written three Greek books, which are the only ones in the Greek references. The first deals with "Marketing in Health Care", the following with "Quality in Health Care" and the third with "Quality and Patient Safety in Health Care." He has edited the books "E-Health Systems Quality and Reliability: Models and Standards", "E-health Technologies & Improving Patient Safety: Exploring Organizational Factors", "Cloud Computing Applications for Quality Health Care Delivery", "Laboratory Management Information Systems: Current Requirements and Future Perspectives", "M-Health Innovations for Patient-Centered Care", "Design Development and Integration of Reliable Electronic Healthcare Platforms", and "Mobile Health Applications for Quality Healthcare Delivery", and 'Quality Assurance in the Era of Individualized Medicine'. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the "Advances in Healthcare Information Systems and Administration" book series and the International Journal of Reliable & Quality in Healthcare (IJRQEH). He has also served as the scientific coordinator of research programs in Greece and participated as a researcher in European research programs. In 2004, he was declared "Person of Quality," with respect to Greece.*