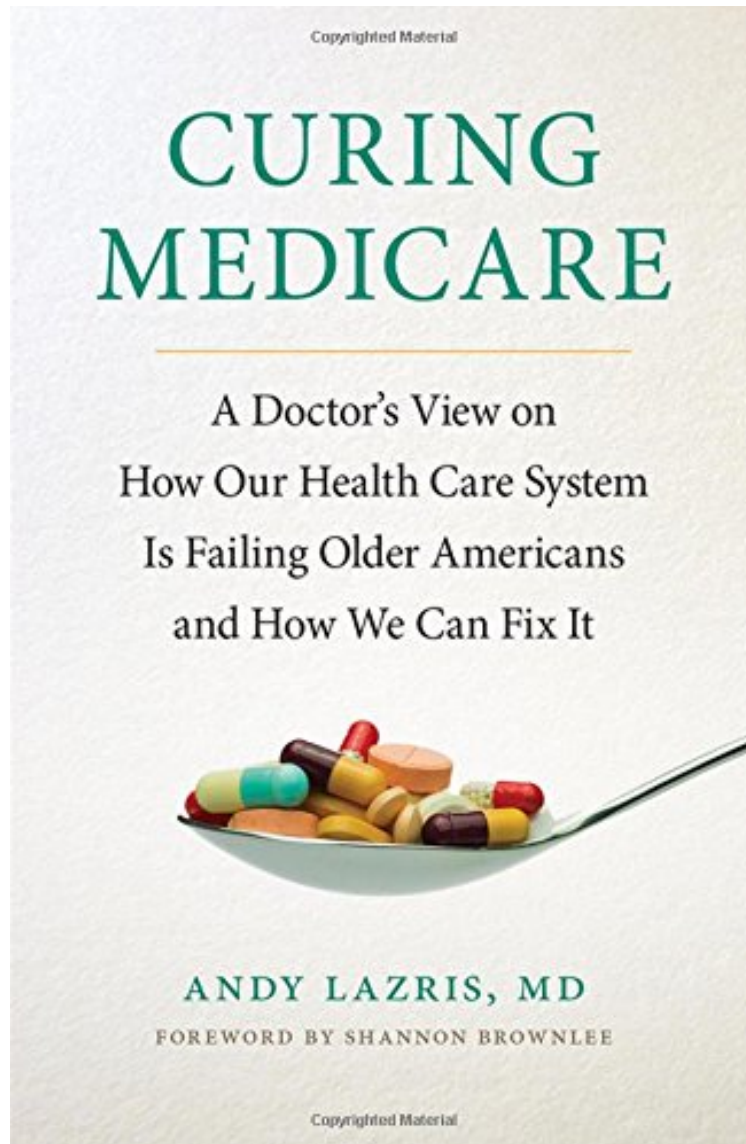


(Ebook pdf) Curing Medicare: A Doctor's View on How Our Health Care System Is Failing Older Americans and How We Can Fix It (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)

Curing Medicare: A Doctor's View on How Our Health Care System Is Failing Older Americans and How We Can Fix It (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)

Andy Lazris

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Andy Lazris : Curing Medicare: A Doctor's View on How Our Health Care System Is Failing Older Americans and How We Can Fix It (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work) before purchasing it in order to gage

whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Curing Medicare: A Doctor's View on How Our Health Care System Is Failing Older Americans and How We Can Fix It (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)*:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent discussion of Medicare and the elderly
By GEJBOOKS
First, I would recommend this book to anyone who has elderly parents or who is approaching old age themselves. The author discusses the obsessive focus of the US health care system on managing numbers rather than tailoring care to each patient. Increasingly the system rewards statistics and pours Medicare dollars into overly heroic end-of-life treatments. Lazris makes the point that we all die and, as the end approaches, it makes no sense to subject the "frail elderly" (his term) to batteries of tests, over-medication, and invasive procedures in a futile attempt to defeat death. He argues that much Medicare money would be better spent on end-of-life comfort - palliative care, home care, etc. - rather than forcing families to choose between depleting their own resources to keep a loved one at home or have them spend their final days being poked, prodded and tested in a hospital simply because Medicare will only pay for the latter. Anyway, whether you agree with his views or not, it's an informative book.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An important book. Very in-depth look at Medicare and ...
By cray1380
An important book. Very in-depth look at Medicare and the rest of our health care system as well. Lazris has the education, experience, and background to talk about this with an expertise that few have.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A realistic view of how Medicare works, and sometimes fails
By J. Tyler Resch
Author Lazris documents, using actual cases in his practice, several improvements needed in Medicare that would make it more realistic while also saving some taxpayers' money. It's well worth a read.

Andy Lazris, MD, is a practicing primary care physician who experiences the effects of Medicare policy on a daily basis. As a result, he believes that the way we care for our elderly has taken a wrong turn and that Medicare is complicit in creating the very problems it seeks to solve. Aging is not a disease to be cured; it is a life stage to be lived. Lazris argues that aggressive treatments cannot change that fact but only get in the way and decrease quality of life. Unfortunately, Medicare's payment structure and rules deprive the elderly of the chance to pursue less aggressive care, which often yields the most humane and effective results. Medicare encourages and will pay more readily for hospitalization than for palliative and home care. It encourages and pays for high-tech assaults on disease rather than for the primary care that can make a real difference in the lives of the elderly. Lazris offers straightforward solutions to ensure Medicare's solvency through sensible cost-effective plans that do not restrict patient choice or negate the doctor-patient relationship. Using both data and personal stories, he shows how Medicare needs to change in structure and purpose as the population ages, the physician pool becomes more specialized, and new medical technology becomes available. *Curing Medicare* demonstrates which medical interventions (medicines, tests, procedures) work and which can be harmful in many common conditions in the elderly; the harms and benefits of hospitalization; the current culture of long-term care; and how Medicare often promotes care that is ineffective, expensive, and contrary to what many elderly patients and their families really want.

"Lazris, a primary care geriatric physician and medical director at facilities for the frail elderly, advocates a minimalist approach to medical intervention for many chronic health problems of advanced age, including dementia. He argues that Medicare's outdated payment rules and assumptions about life expectancy are financing an interminable search for eternal life instead of ensuring that Medicare pays for long-term 'palliative care, ideally at home. With an insiders view, the author does an excellent job of diagnosing pervasive problems in the Medicare system. A fascinating look at how Medicare must change." *Kirkus* s"
There is now a sizable choir of American physicians recruited from all corners of the profession whose voices are raised in anguish over the difficulty of practicing medicine according to their conscience. Now Dr. Andy Lazris adds *Curing Medicare* to the repertoire. It is a compelling lament that is at once strident and compassionate. It earns Lazris a position in the front row of the choir. If only we could fill the pews."
Nortin M. Hadler, MD, Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Microbiology/Immunology, University of North Carolina Medical School, author of *The Last Well Person: How to Stay Well Despite the Health-Care System and Rethinking Aging: Growing Old and Living Well in an Overtreated Society*"
As a medical student, I was trained in 'thorough' the goal being to find as many problems with my patients as possible. In *Curing Medicare*, Dr. Andy Lazris seeks to redefine thorough and not simply to humanize our profession but to protect the elderly from the harms of too much medical care. It is a passionate but thoughtful critique of medicine's relentless focus on numbers, unimportant measures of performance, and turning people into patients."
H. Gilbert Welch, MD, MPH, Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, author of *Overdiagnosed: Making People Sick in the Pursuit of Health*"
Curing Medicare is at once serious and wise, humorous and entertaining. There are not many writers who can weave concrete and meaningful data into a book that reads like a juicy suspense flick. Dr. Andy Lazris has skillfully woven data, experience from his medical practice, and real-life patient stories we can all relate to into a call to action to change our broken Medicare system and improve patient quality of life. This riveting book shows Lazris to be a stand-out thought leader in an arena that affects us all: Medicare, over-care, and the disconnect from the peaceful beauty that is possible

in the context of aging and death when we don't clutter up the process with end-of-life heroics. Lazris is a fierce advocate for his patients and for educating health professionals and health consumers alike of the dangers of overtesting and overtreatment."Bridget Hughes, MAc, LAc, author of *Unlocking the Heart of Healing*"I recommend *Curing Medicare* for all patients, politicians, physicians, nurses, and health policy thinkers. This is an important book by a very skilled individual. Somehow Dr. Andy Lazris effectively transforms his frustrations with the Medicare system into wonderfully clear teaching stories and solid policy recommendations."Robert M. Duggan, author of *Breaking the Iron Triangle: Reducing Health-Care Costs in Corporate America*"*Curing Medicare* is a trenchant analysis of the ills of the current health care regime for the elderly. Dr. Andy Lazris's message is a timeless one: you're not sick. You're just getting older. It is not, after all, an unusual condition in the scope of human history. Throughout he warns of the perils of too much, too much surgery, too much medicine, and too high an expectation for eternal youth. Its a page-turner."Phillip Soergel, Chairman and Professor, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park"Dr. Andy Lazris, a general internist and geriatrician, has written a wise book. All doctors in training and doctors in practice should read it, and so should their patients. Our health system has been slowly but steadily making it hard to be well. This book is well written, well researched, and makes a strong case that less is more for many of the common conditions and maladies that bring people to doctors. Organized medicine and academic medicine makes much of evidence-based practice. But what happens when the evidence is weak? Read this book and judge for yourself."Daniel Becker, MD, MPH, Director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Humanities and Tussi and John Kluge Professor of Palliative Medicine, University of Virginia Medical Center

About the Author Andy Lazris, MD, is a primary care physician specializing in geriatrics and currently directs a group practice in Columbia, Maryland. He is Medical Director of several assisted living facilities and retirement communities. He is the coauthor of *Interpreting Health Risks and Benefits: A Practical Guide to Facilitate Doctor-Patient Communication*. Visit his blog at www.curingmedicare.com.

Shannon Brownlee is a journalist and the acting director of the Health Policy Program at the New America Foundation. She is the author of *Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine Is Making Us Sicker and Poorer*.