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Demand Better! Revive Our Broken Healthcare System

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Sanjaya Kumar, David B. Nash : Demand Better! Revive Our Broken Healthcare System before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Demand Better! Revive Our Broken Healthcare System:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy CustomerExcellent review of the real issues facing healthcare,needs to be updated0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. excellentBy Ashley CollinsExactly as irdered, quick shipping, awesome10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Excellent -By Loyd EskildsonIf I, along with health care's most vocal critics, had just half the credibility on this topic as authors Kumar and Nash, America wouldn't be leading the world in health care expenditures (18.1%+ GDP, and rising), while trailing in a number of patient outcome measures and often doing more harm than good for patients (eg. unneeded, yet duplicated CT-scans).The authors list five healthcare myths preventing effective healthcare delivery. The authors waste no time getting to the point - modern health care lacks a high degree of scientific certainty. Reality is that medical decision-making is based more on faith (as much as 80%) than solid science (about 20%). Patients with the same problem going to different physicians frequently get wildly different treatments - not all can be 'best practice,;, some may not even be 'good.' We spend more than \$700 billion/year on care that fails to improve health, and often harms.Most physicians practice without feedback on their practice correctness, and thus simply continue doing what they've been doing. This is partly because it is impossible to keep up with all new research evidence, because adverse outcomes are too often viewed as unavoidable complications, because generalists often don't get enough practice to become perfect, because about 21% of prescriptions are given to treat conditions for which they have not been approved (researched and found

effective), and sometimes because being sloppy and/or overly aggressive pays providers more (enormous amounts of demonstrated ineffective treatment for low-back pain are provided because it pays specialists so well). Under-use and overuse failures are both prevalent. The last half of the book focuses on "Myth Busters to Transform our Healthcare System." Bottom-Line: Health care is an extremely inelastic service, subject to easy price-gouging and excessive supply-side influences (eg. access to knowledge). A totally-free market is not appropriate in such a situation; to my knowledge, no other nation has nearly as much laissez-faire health care as the U.S., and this is the major cause of our ills in this sector. Those carping about 'Death Panels' and 'rationing' efforts to reduce ineffective and harmful care are hurting patients - both medically and financially. They would serve our nation much better reading "Demand Better!" and accepting its implications.

Much of the healthcare debate is centered on cost - the cost of: direct patient care, insuring millions of uninsured people, defensive medicine to avert malpractice lawsuits and administrative costs that eat up a large chunk of every healthcare dollar. How can we spend more than \$700 billion each year on medical care that fails to improve patients' health and often harms them? There is no easy fix to these problems, of course. But there is the best place to look: focus on quality. This is a book about debunking healthcare myths through the lens of quality. Poor healthcare quality derives from uncertainty in clinical decision-making, from persistent unexplained variation in physician practice patterns, from still-inadequate accountability for quality and patient safety, from payment for piecework and from medical training curriculum that is decades behind the curve. Reclaiming quality by addressing each of these deficiencies will transform the economics of our healthcare system. This is not a utopian critique. It is based on a quality revolution that is already underway and is gradually transforming the way medical care is delivered in the US. This is a pivotal moment in American healthcare delivery, marked by tremendous innovation aimed at "busting" our counterproductive myths: improving physician decision-making, building a better research base to compare the effectiveness of different treatments for the same medical condition, devising accountability mechanisms that work, piloting second-generation pay-for-performance models, paying greater attention to quality improvement in medical training curriculum and expanding access to quality care in non-traditional venues. Even the reader who thinks he or she knows all about some of the topics in this book will appreciate the manner in which Demand Better! integrates these topics into a cohesive appraisal of core problems and cutting-edge solutions that are of the greatest interest to them.