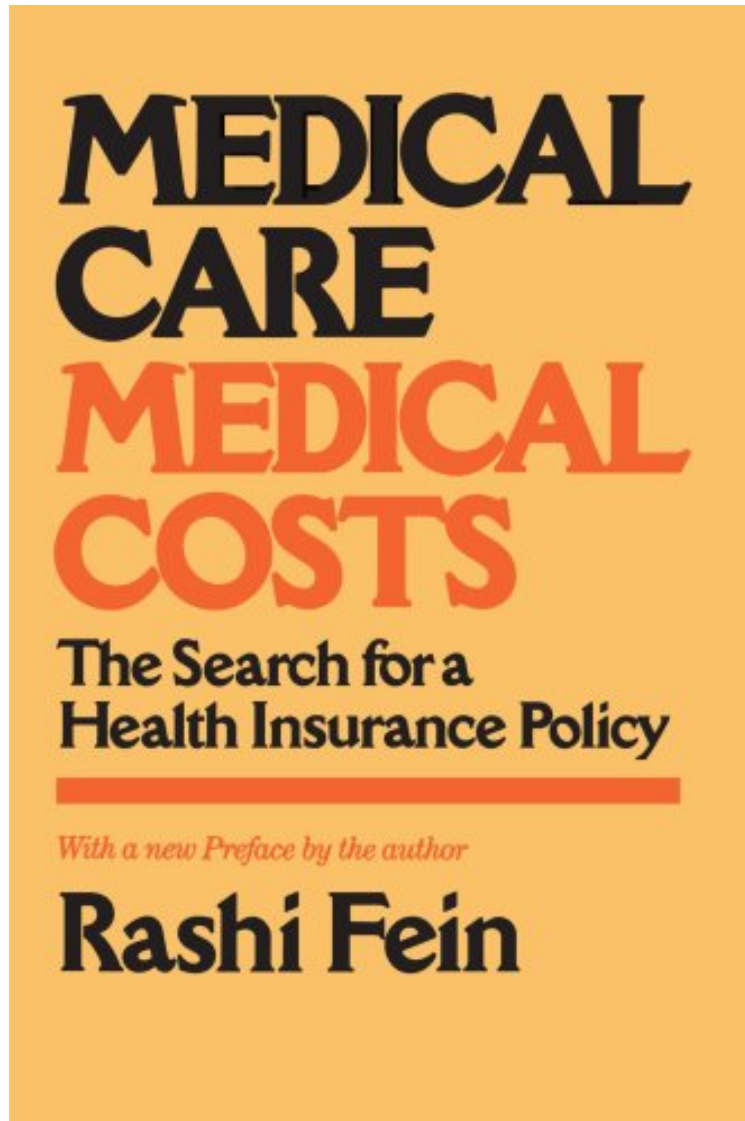


Medical Care, Medical Costs: The Search for a Health Insurance Policy

Rashi Fein

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After decades of neglect, health care for Americans became a part of social policy in the 1960s, only to fall increasingly under the influence of market-driven theorists and commerce-oriented caregivers. Rashi Fein, Professor of Economics of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and former senior staff member of the Presidents Council of Economic Advisers, warns that the American health care insurance system is in jeopardy and calls for its reform. In *Medical Care, Medical Costs: The Search for a Health Insurance Policy*, Fein argues that the quest for efficiency in the delivery of health care services must be joined with a concern for equity in their distribution and that we need policies informed by long-held values, traditions, and experiences in the shaping of medical care delivery.

From *Library Journal* health/econ The fact that the American health care insurance system is in urgent need of reform is self-evident. Proposals designed to ensure not only efficiency in health care services delivery, but also equity in their distribution, abound. Given the general consensus that health care policy should be part of a broader social policy, it cannot be denied that competitive market alone cannot act as a control mechanism guaranteeing a right to health care. Fein (Economics of Medicine, Harvard) traces the historical evolution of private health insurance as well as Medicare and Medicaid. While critically examining all possible alternatives, he argues that a Universal Health Insurance Program would be the best solution. A topical book, recommended for academic and large public libraries. M. Balachandran, Univ. of Illinois Lib., Urbana-Champaign Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Rashi Fein, Ph.D., is Professor of Medical Economics, Emeritus, at Harvard Medical School, and the author of *Medical Care, Medical Costs: The Search for a Health Insurance Policy*.