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Healthy Markets?: The New Competition in Medical Care

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From Brand: Duke University Press Books : Healthy Markets?: The New Competition in Medical Care before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Healthy Markets?: The New Competition in Medical Care:

When federal and state policy makers' efforts to enact sweeping health care reform in the mid-1990s ended in stalemate, the private sector unleashed initiatives that have affected virtually every aspect of health care. With updated essays first published in issues of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, *Healthy Markets?* offers the most comprehensive and critical examination yet found in a single volume of the economic, political, and social implications of this recent market transformation of health care in the United States. With original contributions from leading social science health policy analysts, this volume addresses the full context of health system change. Believing that the analysis of health care change is too important to be left to economists alone, Mark A. Peterson has collected a multidisciplinary group of experts who revisit the contentious debate over the market approaches to health care and consider the disparate effects of these approaches on cost, quality, and coverage of both managed care and Medicaid and Medicare. While market enthusiasts applaud the enhanced efficiency, reduced excess capacity, and abatement of the decades-long health care cost explosion, a backlash has emerged among many providers and the public against the perceived excesses of the market: diminished access to care, commercialization of the physician-patient relationship, and exacerbated inequality. Contributors assess these varied responses while examining the impact that market-based applications are likely to have for future health policy making, the significance of the U.S. experience for policy makers abroad, and the lessons that these changes might provide for thinking sensibly about the future of our health care system. This volume will be useful for public policy analysts, economists, social scientists, health care providers and administrators, and others interested in the future—and in understanding the past—of American health care. Contributors: Gary S. Belkin, Lawrence D. Brown, Robert G. Evans, Martin Gaynor, Paul B. Ginsburg, Marsha Gold, Theodore R. Marmor, Cathie Jo Martin, Jonathan B. Oberlander, Mark V. Pauly, Mark A. Peterson, Thomas Rice, Deborah A. Stone, William B. Vogt, Kenneth E. Thorpe

Healthy Markets? does what we always want and rarely get in an edited volume: combine the different perspectives of many fine scholars into a whole that is greater than the parts. The essays are sometimes contentious, often brilliant, and always illuminating. They add up to a rich assessment both of health policy in the mid-1990s and of the forces that will determine what happens next.—Joseph White, Tulane University Medical Center