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James C. Robinson

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James C. Robinson : Purchasing Medical Innovation: The Right Technology, for the Right Patient, at the Right Price before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Purchasing Medical Innovation: The Right Technology, for the Right Patient, at the Right Price:

Innovation in medical technology generates a remarkable supply of new drugs, devices, and diagnostics that improve health, reduce risks, and extend life. But these technologies are too often used on the wrong patient, in the wrong setting, or at an unaffordable price. The only way to moderate the growth in health care costs without undermining the dynamic of medical innovation is to improve the process of assessing, pricing, prescribing, and using new technologies. *Purchasing Medical Innovation* analyzes the contemporary revolution in the purchasing of health care technology, with a focus on the roles of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Medicare and private health insurers, physicians and hospitals, and consumers themselves. The FDA is more thoroughly assessing product performance under real-world conditions as well as in laboratory settings, accelerating the path to market for breakthroughs while imposing use controls on risky products. Insurers are improving their criteria for coverage and designing payment methods that reward efficiency in the selection of new treatments. Hospitals are aligning adoption of complex supplies and equipment more closely with physicians' preferences for the best treatment for their patients. Consumers are becoming more engaged and financially accountable for their health care choices. This book describes both the strengths and deficiencies of the current system of purchasing and highlights opportunities for buyers, sellers, and users to help improve the value of medical technology: better outcomes at lower cost.

From the Inside Flap *Purchasing Medical Innovation* examines an important segment of the health care delivery system—medical equipment and devices—in which new research is sorely needed. The book does an excellent job of showing how trends toward increased clinical integration, provider payment reform, and new insurance benefit designs will affect this segment of the industry. Leif Wellington Haase, Senior Fellow of the New America Foundation and past Director of the California Task Force on Affordable Care, is clearly in his element writing about health care markets and new ways in which organizations are contracting on the basis of price and quality. The case studies are written with strong authority. Approaching medical technology from the perspective of the purchaser is a fresh way of addressing the topic. Peter Neumann, Director of the Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health, Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies, Tufts Medical Center