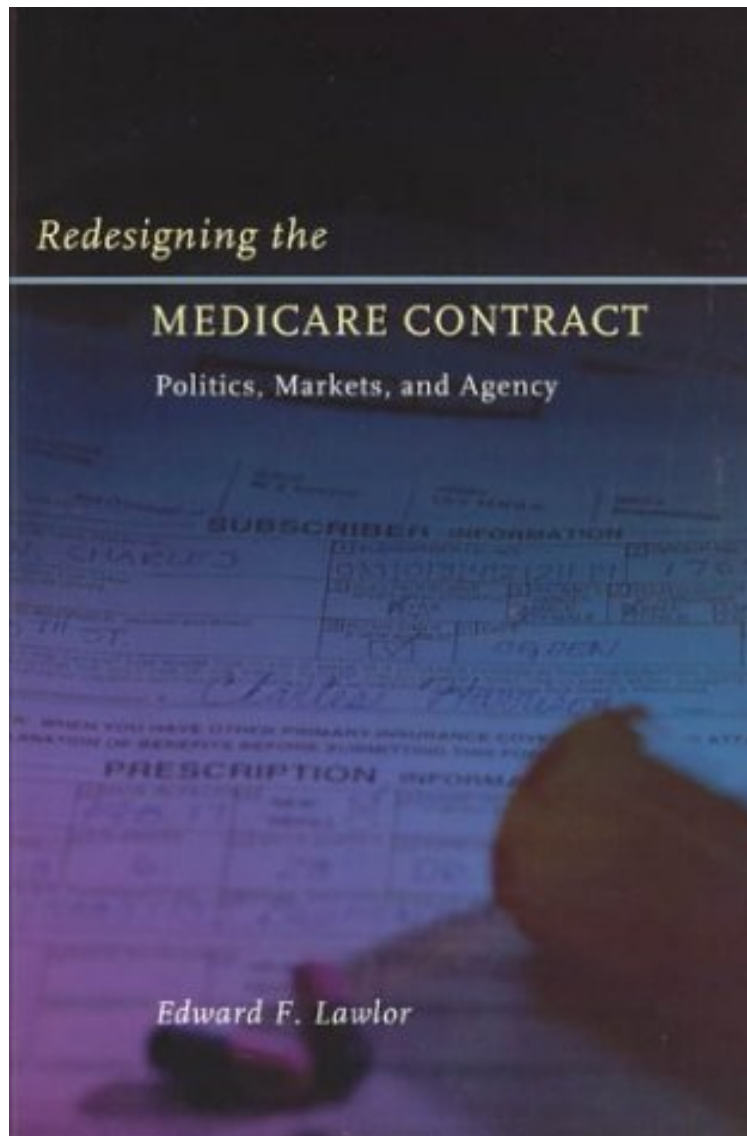


[Free pdf] Redesigning the Medicare Contract: Politics, Markets, and Agency

Redesigning the Medicare Contract: Politics, Markets, and Agency

Edward F. Lawlor

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Edward F. Lawlor : Redesigning the Medicare Contract: Politics, Markets, and Agency before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Redesigning the Medicare Contract: Politics, Markets, and Agency:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant book on the Medicare system By Bruce_in_LALawlor has produced a complex, brilliant, broad-sweeping book. I'm amazed it isn't better known. He doesn't publish much in the major places for Medicare policy (NEJM, Health Affairs, etc). But this book is a gold mine. It's a very broad,

innovative view of what's right and what's wrong with the Medicare system as a whole. It's also - I want to say this carefully - it's something of a slow read, NOT because of the writing style, but because he has so many ideas and plays them out so well, it really invites thoughtful reading and would defy skimming.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. A TIMELY LOOK AT AN IMPORTANT ISSUE By A Customer With all of the debate over Medicare reform working its way through Congress and the country, this book is a must read. While very detailed and insightful, it is still quite accessible to the layperson. In fact, I would recommend it specifically to those who know little about Medicare. You will learn so much and gain a deeper understanding of a very important issue. Those who are already well read on the topic will still find plenty of fresh ideas within the book. Everything is explained thoroughly without the explanations ever becoming anything less than engaging. Edward Lawlor is an intelligent and thoughtful first time writer and I eagerly await his next book.

Recent debates on Medicare reform focus on prescription drug coverage, expanding managed-care choices, or technical issues of payment policy. Despite all the heat generated by these issues, Edward F. Lawlor's new book, *Redesigning the Medicare Contract*, demonstrates that fundamental questions of purpose and policy design for Medicare have been largely ignored. Challenging conventional ideas, Lawlor suggests that we look at Medicare as a contract between the federal government, the program's beneficiaries, and health care providers. Medicare reform, then, would involve rewriting this contract so that it more successfully serves the interests of both beneficiaries and taxpayers. To do this, Lawlor argues that we must improve the agency of the program—the informational, organizational, and incentive elements that assure Medicare program carries out beneficiary and taxpayer interests in providing the most appropriate, high-quality care possible. The book includes a chapter devoted solely to concepts and applications that give definition to this brand of agency theory. Lawlor's innovative agency approach is matched with lucid explanation of the more comprehensive groundwork in the history and politics of the Medicare program. Lawlor's important and timely book reframes the Medicare debate in a productive manner and effectively analyzes alternatives for reform. Lawlor argues that effective policy design for Medicare requires greater appreciation of the vulnerability of beneficiaries, the complexity of the program itself, its wide geographical variations in services and financing, and the realistic possibilities for government and private sector roles. Tackling difficult problems like end-of-life and high-tech care—and offering sensible solutions—*Redesigning the Medicare Contract* will interest political scientists, economists, policy analysts, and health care professionals alike.

From the Inside Flap Recent debates on Medicare reform focus on prescription drug coverage, expanding managed-care choices, or technical issues of payment policy. Despite all the heat generated by these issues, Edward F. Lawlor's new book, *Redesigning the Medicare Contract*, demonstrates that fundamental questions of purpose and policy design for Medicare have been largely ignored. Challenging conventional ideas, Lawlor suggests that we look at Medicare as a contract between the federal government, the program's beneficiaries, and health care providers. Medicare reform, then, would involve rewriting this contract so that it more successfully serves the interests of both beneficiaries and taxpayers. To do this, Lawlor argues that we must improve the agency of the program—the informational, organizational, and incentive elements that assure Medicare program carries out beneficiary and taxpayer interests in providing the most appropriate, high-quality care possible. The book includes a chapter devoted solely to concepts and applications that give definition to this brand of agency theory. Lawlor's innovative agency approach is matched with lucid explanation of the more comprehensive groundwork in the history and politics of the Medicare program. Lawlor's important and timely book reframes the Medicare debate in a productive manner and effectively analyzes alternatives for reform. Lawlor argues that effective policy design for Medicare requires greater appreciation of the vulnerability of beneficiaries, the complexity of the program itself, its wide geographical variations in services and financing, and the realistic possibilities for government and private sector roles. Tackling difficult problems like end-of-life and high-tech care—and offering sensible solutions—*Redesigning the Medicare Contract* will interest political scientists, economists, policy analysts, and health care professionals alike.