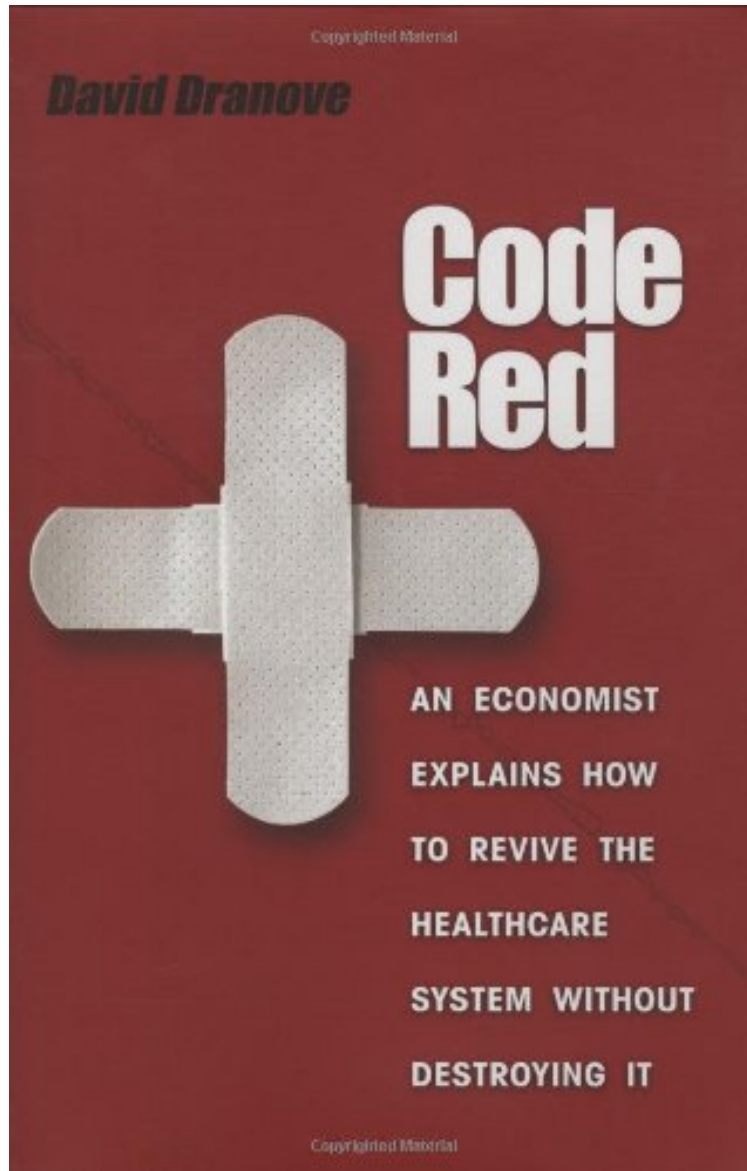


(Download) Code Red: An Economist Explains How to Revive the Healthcare System without Destroying It

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David Dranove

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The U.S. healthcare system is in critical condition--but this should come as a surprise to no one. Yet until now the solutions proposed have been unworkable, pie-in-the-sky plans that have had little chance of becoming law and even less of succeeding. In *Code Red*, David Dranove, one of the nation's leading experts on the economics of healthcare, proposes a set of feasible solutions that address access, efficiency, and quality. Dranove offers pragmatic remedies, some of them controversial, all of them crucially needed to restore the system to vitality. He pays special attention to the plight of the uninsured, and proposes a new direction that promises to make premier healthcare for all Americans a national reality. Setting his story against the backdrop of healthcare in the United States from the early twentieth century to the present day, he reveals why a century of private and public sector efforts to reform the ailing system have largely failed. He draws on insights from economics to diagnose the root causes of rising costs and diminishing access to quality care, such as inadequate information, perverse incentives, and malfunctioning insurance markets. Dranove describes the ongoing efforts to revive the system--including the rise of consumerism, the quality movement, and initiatives to expand access--and argues that these efforts are doomed to fail without more fundamental, systemic, market-based reforms. *Code Red* lays the foundation for a thriving healthcare system and is indispensable for anyone trying to make sense of the thorny issues of healthcare reform.

"Code Red is one of the two or three best books on the economics of health care. It is especially strong on how the current mess evolved historically and what has been tried (or not tried) along the way. This is the place to go to understand PSROs or what happened to the HMO revolution...This book won't make anyone fully happy, but it is a must for fans of health care policy."--Tyler Cowen, *Marginal Revolution*
"Many books and articles address improvements to the US health care system and the provision of health insurance to all citizens . . . [Dranove's] goal . . . is to review public sector efforts to deal with access, costs, and quality. . . . [I]t is well written . . . and does a good job of providing insights into the national debate. . . . In the end, having a quality system requires an efficient public-private partnership."--R. L. Jones, Pennsylvania State University, College of Medicine, for *CHOICE*
"With health care as a key issue in the presidential campaign, it is refreshing to read a balanced, well-reasoned essay on the ailments of our healthcare system, along with some possible remedies. *Code Red* is an excellent read for health care professionals and policy wonks: it is suitable for anyone interested in the debate, though it employs a modicum of vocabulary from Dranove's discipline, economics."--Michael P. Meacham, *Centre Daily Times*
"From the Inside Flap" Just what the doctor ordered. In *Code Red*, David Dranove explains how the United States came to finance healthcare; critically examines proposals that are often touted as solutions to what ails the healthcare system, like quality report cards and consumer-directed healthcare; and provides his own sensible prescription for reform."--Jill Quadagno, author of *One Nation, Uninsured*
"This is an excellent book and a truly valuable contribution to the discussion of healthcare in the United States. It frames the debate by providing a concise yet impressive history of healthcare in the United States and then follows it with an analysis of the available solutions. Policymakers, professionals, and students need to hear this message."--Lawton Robert Burns, editor of *The Business of Healthcare Innovation*
"This is a well-written and thought-provoking book. Few would dispute the current U.S. health system is in crisis. The question is what to do? In this book, David Dranove offers a pragmatic assessment of possible alternatives. The reader comes away with a solid understanding of how basic economic concepts and improved information systems could be combined to improve performance and expand coverage."--William D. White, Cornell University
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