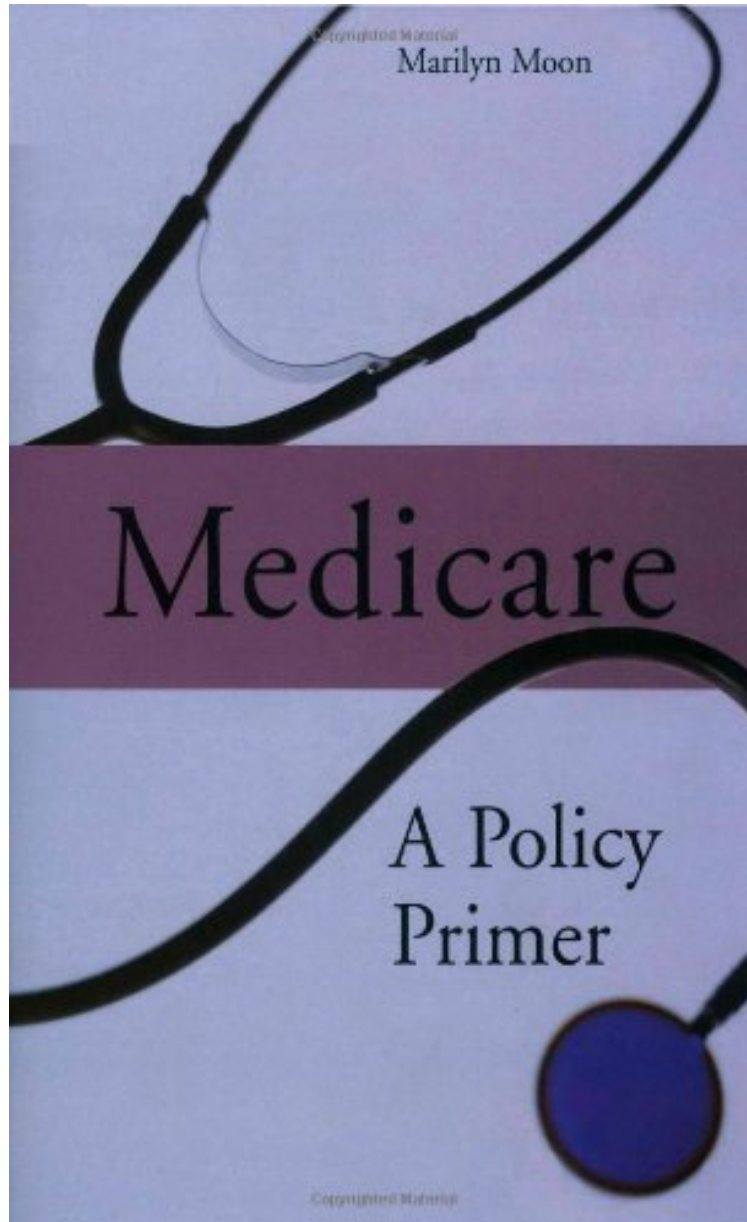


[Mobile ebook] Medicare: A Policy Primer

Medicare: A Policy Primer

Marilyn Moon

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Marilyn Moon : Medicare: A Policy Primer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Medicare: A Policy Primer:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Primer on Medicare Policy, History, and Reform OptionsBy Kip Piper Medicare is a study in contrasts. In its financing, the program is modeled as what health wonks

call "social insurance," which in reality is a euphemism for a politically effective but fiscally troubling mix of social welfare, health insurance, and cross-generational income transfers. Limited in coverage, slow to add coverage of new technologies, and often high in cost sharing, Medicare often cost-shifts to state Medicaid programs. While relatively cheap for the government to administer, Medicare is astonishingly complex, placing providers, suppliers, health plans, and patients under a mountain of red tape. In *Medicare: A Policy Primer*, Dr. Marilyn Moon - a respected researcher, former Medicare Trustee, and one of the nation's leading Medicare policy gurus - "explains what Medicare is, how it works, and where is it headed." In this excellent introduction, Dr. Moon outlines the history of Medicare, taking readers from the program's origins in 1965 and the Great Society to today. The Medicare primer also walks readers through how the massive \$370 billion program works in relation to the rest of the U.S. health care system and other federal programs. While Dr. Moon is an unrepentant fan of Medicare and takes a decidedly Liberal, pro-entitlement approach to health policy, she takes pains to provide a thoughtful, balanced discussion of Medicare's key strengths and failings. She also debunks some lingering myths and assesses several of the more popular Medicare reform options. Kip Piper[...]

For some, Medicare is a model of what national health insurance could be in the United States. Despite its low administrative costs and significant contributions to the well-being of America's oldest and most disabled citizens, some critics assail the program as being out of sync with the needs of many senior citizens, while others often refer to it as "unsustainable" because of its high costs. Physicians and hospital administrators endlessly criticize and debate Medicare, but rely upon it for a substantial share of their revenues. In *Medicare: A Policy Primer*, Marilyn Moon explains what Medicare is, how it works, and where is it headed. She examines the problems facing the program and which reform options hold the most promise. She also examines the history of Medicare and how the program works in the broader context of health care, the federal government, and the economy. It is a clear introduction to one of the most critical debates in health policy and an important volume for anyone interested in the future of Medicare.

"...[A] comprehensive, clear, up-to-date, and definitive picture of the program, its beneficiaries, its politics, and its ongoing policy challenges." -- Robert H. Binstock, professor of aging, health, and society, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University "A readable roadmap to sanity and decency in America's health care system." -- Robert M. Hayes, president, Medicare Rights Center "...[A] comprehensive, clear, up-to-date, and definitive picture of the program, its beneficiaries, its politics, and its ongoing policy challenges." Robert H. Binstock, professor of aging, health, and society, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University "A readable roadmap to sanity and decency in America's health care system." Robert M. Hayes, president, Medicare Rights Center About the Author Marilyn Moon is vice president and director of the Health Program at the American Institutes for Research. A nationally known expert on Medicare, she has served as a senior fellow at the Urban Institute and as a public trustee for the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Dr. Moon has written extensively on health policy, both for the elderly and the population in general, and on social insurance issues. From 1993 to 2000, Moon also wrote a periodic column for the *Washington Post* on health reform and health coverage issues. She has served on a number of boards for nonprofit organizations and is currently president of the board of the Medicare Rights Center and the National Academy of Social Insurance. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Previously, she has been an associate professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a senior analyst at the Congressional Budget Office, and the founding director of the Public Policy Institute of the American Association of Retired Persons.