

Fixing the US Healthcare System
Michael D. Miller, MD

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The US healthcare system is sometimes claimed to be “the best in the world,” but it clearly could benefit from major changes; it could provide higher quality care, to more people, at lower costs with caring and compassion. Fixing the healthcare system to achieve these goals will be hard, but not trying is admitting defeat and denying hope.

Fixing the US Healthcare System is for an audience of concerned citizens, opinion leaders, public officials and others to provide them with a fundamental understanding of how our healthcare system operates, how and why the healthcare system is changing, and a roadmap for creating a system with more universally accessible and affordable healthcare that has improved quality and greater compassion.

The public debate about healthcare has been dominated by issues such as high costs and the uninsured. However, these are actually symptoms of underlying problems that include misaligned resources and incentives, and insufficient information. To effectively and efficiently improve our healthcare system, these underlying problems – rather than the symptoms they produce – need to be addressed.

The two types of problems facing the US healthcare system are structural and cultural. Fixing the US Healthcare System analyzes the roots of these problems in terms of the current structure of the US healthcare system and the forces shaping it, and presents solutions to fixing these problems. For the structural problems, these solutions are arranged in five clusters:

1. Information & Communications
2. Economics & Financing
3. Delivery & Coverage
4. Innovation
5. Public Health

Recognizing the law of unintended consequences, Fixing the US Healthcare System stresses the importance of integrated and comprehensive analyses and plans to produce broad positive improvements.

By enabling concerned citizens, opinion leaders, public officials and others to develop and prioritize productive proposals – and combine them into practical plans and campaigns – Fixing the US Healthcare System will help improving our healthcare system.

For More Information Contact:

Michael D. Miller, MD
11 Merrill Street
Cambridge MA, 02139
MDMiller@HealthPolCom.com