

a second opinion arnold s relman

****A Second Opinion Arnold S Relman: Understanding Its Impact on Healthcare****

a second opinion arnold s relman is a phrase that resonates deeply within the medical community, particularly among those who value patient autonomy and informed decision-making. Arnold S. Relman, a prominent physician, editor, and health policy advocate, emphasized the importance of second opinions in medicine as a tool to enhance diagnostic accuracy, reduce medical errors, and empower patients. Exploring the concept of a second opinion through the lens of Relman's insights provides a richer understanding of how this practice shapes modern healthcare.

Who Was Arnold S. Relman?

Before delving into the significance of a second opinion according to Relman, it's important to briefly understand who he was. Arnold S. Relman was a distinguished internist and professor at Harvard Medical School. He also served as the editor-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine* for over a decade. Throughout his career, Relman was a vocal critic of the commercialization of healthcare and championed ethical medical practices focused on patient welfare.

Relman's work often highlighted systemic issues in the healthcare system, such as conflicts of interest and the over-reliance on technology and pharmaceuticals. His advocacy for second opinions aligned with his broader commitment to transparency and patient-centered care.

What Does a Second Opinion Mean in Medical Practice?

A second opinion refers to obtaining an additional evaluation from a different healthcare professional regarding a diagnosis, treatment plan, or prognosis. This practice is common in situations involving complex or serious health conditions, surgical decisions, or when patients feel uncertain about their initial medical advice.

Why Seek a Second Opinion?

There are several reasons why patients are encouraged to seek a second opinion:

- **Confirming a Diagnosis:** Some diseases have overlapping symptoms, and initial diagnoses may need verification to avoid misdiagnosis.
- **Exploring Treatment Options:** A second opinion can provide alternative treatments or confirm the best course of action.

- **Building Confidence:** Knowing that two professionals agree on a treatment plan can help patients feel more secure in their healthcare decisions.
- **Preventing Unnecessary Procedures:** Sometimes, a second opinion can reveal that surgery or aggressive treatment may not be necessary.

Relman understood these benefits and argued that second opinions are not just a patient right but an essential part of ethical medical practice.

Arnold S. Relman's Perspective on Second Opinions

Relman viewed second opinions as a crucial check within the healthcare system. He believed that medical decisions should never be taken lightly, especially when they involve invasive procedures or significant lifestyle changes. His stance was that patients must be encouraged and supported in seeking additional medical advice without fear of offending their primary physician.

Ethics and Patient Empowerment

One of Relman's core beliefs was that patients should be empowered, not intimidated, by the healthcare system. He saw second opinions as a means to democratize medical knowledge, giving patients more control over their health. This mindset challenges the traditional paternalistic model where doctors held all authority and patients were passive recipients of care.

Relman's emphasis on patient empowerment aligns closely with contemporary movements towards shared decision-making and transparency in medicine.

Reducing Medical Errors and Overuse

Relman was also concerned with the high rates of medical errors and unnecessary treatments that plagued the healthcare system. He argued that second opinions could significantly reduce these issues by providing a safeguard against premature or incorrect interventions.

For example, in cases of cancer diagnosis or recommendations for invasive surgeries, a second opinion might reveal alternative therapies or confirm the necessity of the proposed treatment, thereby avoiding harm caused by misdiagnosis or overtreatment.

How to Approach Getting a Second Opinion

If you're considering a second opinion, it helps to approach the process strategically and respectfully. Here are some practical tips inspired by Relman's patient-centered philosophy:

Communicate Openly with Your Doctor

It's important to express your desire for a second opinion honestly. Most physicians understand and support this approach as it reflects thoughtful and responsible patient behavior. Emphasize that you want to be thorough in your decision-making process.

Gather All Relevant Medical Records

To ensure the second physician can provide an informed opinion, collect your medical history, test results, imaging, and any other relevant documentation. This helps avoid redundant testing and speeds up the evaluation process.

Choose the Right Specialist

Seek a healthcare provider who specializes in your condition or has a strong reputation for expertise. Sometimes, referrals from trusted sources or patient advocacy groups can guide you to reliable second-opinion providers.

Be Open to Different Perspectives

A second opinion might confirm the original diagnosis or suggest alternative approaches. Be prepared to consider new information and discuss options openly with your healthcare team.

The Role of Second Opinions in Today's Healthcare Landscape

In recent years, the importance of second opinions has grown due to several factors:

- **Complexity of Medical Conditions:** Advances in medical science have led to more nuanced diagnoses and treatments, making second opinions valuable for expert validation.
- **Access to Specialists:** Telemedicine and digital health platforms have made second opinions more accessible, even from renowned specialists across the globe.
- **Healthcare Costs:** In a system where treatments can be expensive, second opinions help prevent unnecessary procedures, saving money and reducing risks.
- **Patient Advocacy and Rights:** Increased awareness about patient rights encourages individuals to take an active role in their care, including seeking second opinions.

Arnold S. Relman's advocacy laid the groundwork for many of these developments by drawing attention to the ethical and practical benefits of seeking additional medical perspectives.

Technology and Second Opinions

Digital health innovations now allow patients to easily share their records and receive expert consultations remotely. This has democratized access to second opinions, something Relman might have championed as a way to break down barriers within the healthcare system.

Furthermore, online platforms that connect patients with specialists for second opinions help reduce delays in care, improve diagnostic accuracy, and provide peace of mind.

Challenges and Considerations

While second opinions are invaluable, they also come with challenges:

- **Conflicting Information:** Different doctors might provide differing opinions, which can confuse patients.
- **Insurance Coverage:** Not all insurance plans cover second opinions, making it costly for some patients.
- **Emotional Stress:** Seeking a second opinion can be emotionally taxing, especially when facing serious diagnoses.

Despite these hurdles, the benefits often outweigh the drawbacks, particularly when patients approach the process with clear communication and realistic expectations.

Arnold S. Relman's Enduring Legacy

Arnold S. Relman's insights into the importance of a second opinion remain highly relevant. His call for transparency, patient empowerment, and ethical medical practice continues to influence healthcare policies and patient care models worldwide.

By encouraging patients to seek multiple viewpoints, Relman helped foster a culture of critical thinking and shared decision-making that challenges blind trust in a single diagnosis or treatment recommendation.

In a world where healthcare decisions can be complex and fraught with uncertainty, the practice of seeking a second opinion—as championed by Arnold S. Relman—serves as a valuable reminder that medicine is as much an art as it is a science, and that patients deserve a voice in their own care journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Arnold S. Relman?

Arnold S. Relman was a prominent American physician, professor, and editor known for his critical views on the healthcare system and medical practice.

What is 'A Second Opinion' by Arnold S. Relman about?

'A Second Opinion' is an article by Arnold S. Relman discussing the flaws in the American healthcare system and advocating for reforms to improve patient care and reduce costs.

When was 'A Second Opinion' by Arnold S. Relman published?

'A Second Opinion' was originally published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1980.

What are the main themes in Arnold S. Relman's 'A Second Opinion'?

The main themes include the commercialization of medicine, conflicts of interest in healthcare, and the need for a more equitable and effective healthcare system.

How did Arnold S. Relman influence healthcare debates with 'A Second Opinion'?

Relman's article sparked widespread discussion about the ethical and economic challenges in healthcare, influencing policymakers and medical professionals to consider reforms.

Is 'A Second Opinion' by Arnold S. Relman still relevant today?

Yes, many of the issues Relman addressed, such as healthcare costs and conflicts of interest, remain relevant in ongoing healthcare debates.

Where can I find the full text of 'A Second Opinion' by Arnold S. Relman?

The full text can be accessed through medical journals like the New England Journal of Medicine or academic databases that archive historical medical literature.

What criticisms did Arnold S. Relman make about the medical profession in 'A Second Opinion'?

Relman criticized the increasing influence of business interests in medicine, which he believed compromised the quality and ethics of patient care.

Did Arnold S. Relman propose any solutions in 'A Second Opinion'?

Yes, he advocated for structural reforms in healthcare, including reducing commercial pressures and emphasizing medical professionalism and patient-centered care.

Additional Resources

****A Second Opinion Arnold S Relman: An Analytical Review****

a second opinion arnold s relman represents an influential perspective in the discourse surrounding healthcare ethics, medical practice, and health policy. Arnold S. Relman, a distinguished physician, editor, and health policy expert, has been a critical voice in advocating for reform and integrity within the American healthcare system. His work often underscores the importance of obtaining a second opinion in medical care, not merely as a patient's right but as a vital mechanism for ensuring diagnostic accuracy and therapeutic appropriateness.

This article delves into the concept of “a second opinion” as championed by Arnold S. Relman, exploring its implications for modern medicine. By examining Relman's contributions and the broader context of second opinions within the healthcare landscape, we aim to present a comprehensive, balanced, and SEO-optimized analysis for readers seeking to understand the critical role second opinions play in patient care and medical ethics.

The Significance of a Second Opinion in Medical Practice

In clinical medicine, a second opinion often serves as a safeguard against diagnostic errors, unnecessary treatments, or premature decisions. Arnold S. Relman's writings consistently emphasize that second opinions are not just about reassurance but are fundamental to patient-centered care and medical accountability. His editorial tenure at *The New England Journal of Medicine* was marked by an insistence on transparency, evidence-based practice, and ethical medical behavior, all of which resonate with the advocacy for second opinions.

Relman argued that healthcare providers and systems must encourage patients to seek second opinions without stigma or financial penalty. This stance aligns with broader movements toward shared decision-making, where patients are empowered with information and multiple perspectives before consenting to invasive procedures or complex therapies.

Relman's Critique of the Healthcare System and Second Opinions

Arnold S. Relman was critical of the commercialization of medicine, noting that financial incentives often cloud clinical judgment. In such an environment, the value of a second opinion becomes even more pronounced. Relman highlighted that conflicts of interest might lead to overtreatment or

misdiagnosis, underscoring the second opinion's role as a corrective check.

His analysis pointed to systemic issues such as:

- The influence of pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers on clinical decisions
- Fee-for-service models that reward quantity over quality
- Lack of transparency in diagnostic and treatment options offered to patients

By advocating for second opinions, Relman implicitly championed a more ethical, patient-focused healthcare system that prioritizes accurate diagnosis and appropriate care rather than profit-driven motives.

Understanding the Practicalities and Impact of Second Opinions

From a practical standpoint, obtaining a second opinion can be logistically challenging. Patients may face difficulties such as limited access to specialists, insurance constraints, or time pressures. Yet, Relman maintained that overcoming these barriers is essential for safeguarding health outcomes.

Benefits of Seeking a Second Opinion

The benefits of a second opinion, as articulated through Relman's lens and supported by contemporary research, include:

1. **Improved Diagnostic Accuracy:** A second physician may identify errors or alternative diagnoses that could significantly alter treatment plans.
2. **Expanded Treatment Options:** Patients gain awareness of different therapeutic approaches, including less invasive or more cost-effective alternatives.
3. **Patient Empowerment and Confidence:** Receiving confirmation or alternative advice fosters informed decision-making and reduces anxiety.
4. **Potential Cost Savings:** Avoidance of unnecessary surgeries or treatments can reduce financial burdens on both patients and the healthcare system.

Challenges and Limitations

On the flip side, Relman recognized that second opinions are not a panacea. Potential disadvantages or concerns include:

- **Delays in Treatment:** Additional consultations may postpone urgent interventions.
- **Conflicting Opinions:** Divergent medical advice can confuse patients rather than clarify their options.
- **Insurance and Cost Barriers:** Not all insurers cover second opinions, and out-of-pocket expenses may deter patients.
- **Variability in Quality:** The expertise of the second physician varies, and not all second opinions guarantee better outcomes.

Relman's perspective urges a balance—while second opinions are invaluable, they should be integrated thoughtfully within medical workflows to minimize adverse effects.

The Legacy of Arnold S. Relman on Medical Ethics and Patient Advocacy

Beyond the immediate context of second opinions, Arnold S. Relman's broader legacy involves championing medical ethics and advocating for reforms that align medicine with public health values. His critiques of privatized healthcare and commercial conflicts remain relevant today, especially in debates around transparency and patient rights.

Relman's insistence on second opinions also intersects with themes of medical paternalism versus patient autonomy. By encouraging patients to seek a second professional view, he supported the transition from a doctor-knows-best model toward shared responsibility in health decisions.

Second Opinions in the Era of Digital Health

In recent years, the concept of a second opinion has evolved with digital health technologies. Telemedicine platforms and online second opinion services offer patients faster access to expert advice, often transcending geographical barriers.

While Relman's original work predates much of this technological shift, his principles about transparency, evidence-based care, and empowering patients remain pertinent. Digital second opinion services reflect these values by providing:

- Access to specialists worldwide

- Convenient and timely consultations
- Comprehensive review of medical records and imaging

However, the rise of digital platforms also raises new challenges that Relman's work would likely scrutinize, such as data privacy, quality control, and commercialization risks.

Integrating Second Opinions into Healthcare Policy

Relman's advocacy has influenced policy discussions on making second opinions more accessible and routine. Some healthcare systems and insurers have implemented programs to encourage or require second opinions for major surgeries or complex diagnoses.

Key policy considerations inspired by Relman's approach include:

- **Insurance Coverage:** Mandating coverage for second opinions to remove financial barriers.
- **Provider Incentives:** Encouraging clinicians to support patient requests for second opinions without fear of professional rivalry.
- **Patient Education:** Informing patients of their rights and the benefits of seeking additional consultations.
- **Quality Metrics:** Tracking outcomes related to second opinions to assess their impact on healthcare quality and costs.

Such policy frameworks aim to institutionalize the safeguards Relman envisioned, embedding second opinions as a standard component of quality medical care.

Arnold S. Relman's insights into "a second opinion" continue to resonate amid ongoing challenges in healthcare delivery. His blend of medical expertise, ethical rigor, and policy acumen offers a robust foundation for understanding why second opinions matter—not only as a clinical tool but as a symbol of patient-centered, accountable healthcare. As medicine advances and healthcare systems evolve, Relman's call for vigilance, transparency, and patient empowerment remains a guiding beacon.

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a second opinion arnold s relman: A Second Opinion Arnold Relman, 2007-08-05 Dr. Arnold Relman, Professor Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and former editor-in-chief of The New England Journal of Medicine brings together sixty years of experience in medicine in a book that holds the keys to a new structure for healthcare based on voluntary private contracts between individuals and not-for-profit, multi-specialty groups of physicians. Timely, provocative, and newly updated, A Second Opinion is a clarion call to action. If we heed Dr. Relman's plan, Americans could at last achieve a lasting, sensible solution to national healthcare.

a second opinion arnold s relman: A Second Opinion Arnold S. Relman, Arnold S Relman M D, 2010-09-07 Relman's 60 years as researcher, clinician, teacher, government consultant, licensing board member, and editor in chief of the New England Journal of Medicine give him enormous credibility on the subject of health-care reform. He's for national single-payer insurance but believes America's health-care system must change, too, or spiraling costs--and spiraling inequity--won't be contained. The greatest threat to U.S. health care, as he sees it, is the commercialization of medicine since the late 1960s, which, according to free-market ideology, should bring better care at lower cost but hasn't delivered (and never will, Relman believes). Doctors need to renew the sense of themselves as disinterested and compassionate healers rather than money-grubbing entrepreneurs. Relman proposes that most physicians be salaried by a national financing system, associate in self-run group practices to pool expertise and resources, and reclaim the professional self-regulation lost in a 1943 Supreme Court antitrust decision (exemption from antitrust law should be sought, Relman thinks). Everyone interested in its issues must read Relman's argument. Ray Olson

a second opinion arnold s relman: Summary: A Second Opinion BusinessNews Publishing,, 2017-01-30 The must-read summary of Arnold Relman's book: A Second Opinion: Rescuing America's Health Care. This complete summary of A Second Opinion by Arnold Relman, a respected physician and healthcare advocate, explains why the book's author believes that the U.S. health system is failing. He criticises the private markets who support it simply to grow revenue and argues that it is in urgent need of restructuring and refocusing on the care and needs of patients. Added-value of this summary: • Save time • Understand the problems within the American healthcare system • Expand your knowledge of American society To learn more, read A Second Opinion and discover where Relman believes the problems with American healthcare lie, and how solutions could be found and implemented.

a second opinion arnold s relman: A Second Opinion Arnold Relman, 2007-08-05 Dr. Arnold Relman, Professor Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and former editor-in-chief of The New England Journal of Medicine brings together sixty years of experience in medicine in a book that holds the keys to a new structure for healthcare based on voluntary private contracts between individuals and not-for-profit, multi-specialty groups of physicians. Timely, provocative, and newly updated, A Second Opinion is a clarion call to action. If we heed Dr. Relman's plan, Americans could at last achieve a lasting, sensible solution to national healthcare.

a second opinion arnold s relman: Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine Marc A. Rodwin, 2013-10-03 In this book, Marc Rodwin examines the development of conflicts of interest in the health care systems of the US, France, and Japan. He shows that national differences in the organization of medical practice and the interplay of organized medicine, the market, and the state give rise to variations in the type and prevalence of such conflicts, and then analyzes the strategies that each nation employs to cope with them. Drawing on the experiences of these three nations, Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine demonstrates that we can mitigate these problems with carefully planned reform and regulation.

a second opinion arnold s relman: Achieving Justice in the U.S. Healthcare System Arthur J. Dyck, 2019-07-05 This book focuses on justice and its demands in the way of providing

people with medical care. Building on recent insights on the nature of moral perceptions and motivations from the neurosciences, it makes a case for the traditional medical ethic and examines its financial feasibility. The book starts out by giving an account of the concept of justice and tracing it back to the practices and tenets of Hippocrates and his followers, while taking into account findings from the neurosciences. Next, it considers whether the claim that it is just to limit medical care for everyone to some basic minimum is justifiable. The book then addresses finances and expenditures of the US health care system and shows that the growth of expenditures and the percentage of the gross national product spent on health care make for an unsustainable trajectory. In light of the question what should be changed, the book suggests that overdiagnosis and medicalizing normal behavior lead to harmful, costly and unnecessary interventions and are the result of unethical behavior on the part of the pharmaceutical industry and extensive ethical failures of the FDA. The book ends with suggestions about what can be done to put the U.S. health care system on the path to sustainability, better medical care, and compliance with the demands of justice.

a second opinion arnold s relman: Disorder Peter Swenson, 2021-01-01 An incisive look into the problematic relationships among medicine, politics, and business in America and their effects on the nation's health A comprehensive, revealing and surprising account of the history of American medicine.--David Blumenthal, M.D., coauthor of *The Heart of Power: Health and Politics in the Oval Office* and president of the Commonwealth Fund This book is both an important contribution to the history of the American medical profession (and its impact on society as a whole), and a reminder of the malleable, historically contingent nature of its identity and ethos.--Scott H. Podolsky, M.D., author of *The Antibiotic Era* Meticulously tracing the dramatic conflicts both inside organized medicine and between the medical profession and the larger society over quality, equality, and economy in health care, Peter A. Swenson illuminates the history of American medical politics from the late nineteenth century to the present. This book chronicles the role of medical reformers in the progressive movement around the beginning of the twentieth century and the American Medical Association's dramatic turn to conservatism later. Addressing topics such as public health, medical education, pharmaceutical regulation, and health-care access, Swenson paints a disturbing picture of the entanglements of medicine, politics, and profit seeking that explain why the United States remains the only economically advanced democracy without universal health care. Swenson does, however, see a potentially brighter future as a vanguard of physicians push once again for progressive reforms and the adoption of inclusive, effective, and affordable practices.

a second opinion arnold s relman: Business Behaving Well Ron Elsdon, 2013-01-31 Social responsibility has become a goal for both employers and employees in the business community. But what does the term social responsibility mean, and what paths must businesses take to have a positive impact on society? *Business Behaving Well* provides a rationale and roadmap that will enable businesses to integrate social responsibility into their purpose and operations. Using real-world examples from a broad variety of industries, including health care and education, editor Ron Elsdon and his fellow authors describe how nonprofit and public sector entities can structure effective relationships with private firms for everyone's benefit. Addressing strategic issues as well as practical implementation, *Business Behaving Well* is for anyone who is actively engaged in the business world, individuals working in the public and nonprofit sectors, and students and faculty who study the relationship between business and social issues. It provides both the tools and structure to apply principles of business social responsibility, while inspiring readers with enthusiasm and the confidence to take action.

a second opinion arnold s relman: The Myths of Modern Medicine John Leifer, 2014-09-11 The American health care system is terminally ill. It is astonishingly expensive, remarkably variable in quality, and incapable of stemming the rising tide of chronic illness in our population. Yet, the majority of Americans believe it is the best system in the world and cling to the belief that, far from ailing, it delivers care superior to those of countries across the globe. The system has obliged us by providing an elaborate set of myths and misconceptions about American health care that

significantly shape our beliefs. These myths keep us blissfully ignorant about the true quality, safety, and value of the care we receive. This ignorance has a price: it leads us to draw erroneous conclusions about our conditions, fail to properly evaluate potential treatment options, and rarely question our providers' competency. *The Myths of Modern Medicine* looks at the real issues contributing to the dysfunction of our healthcare system and how these issues affect the care we receive. The book, based upon John Leifer's 30 years of immersion in the healthcare industry, challenges some of our most commonly held misperceptions about this vitally important industry. Leifer strips away the elaborately constructed myths that conceal the ugly underbelly of healthcare and lays bare the truth about an industry that serves special interest groups far better than it serves its patients. A survival guide for anyone entering the healthcare system, this timely work helps consumers better research provider competency; ask the right questions to evaluate potential treatment options; and communicate the information that will help yield the right treatment decisions. Several studies have shown patients today have only about a 50 percent chance of getting the generally accepted best treatment for their conditions. This book helps consumers increase these odds with step-by-step directions on how to interact more productively with their doctors and become true partners in making what may be the most crucial decisions of their lives.

a second opinion arnold s relman: *Still Broken* Stephen Davidson, 2010-03-24 The debate over health care policy in the U. S. did not end when President Obama signed the landmark Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) on March 23, 2010. Since then, half the states have sued and federal judges have issued conflicting rulings about the law's constitutionality. In addition, the new Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted to repeal it, and Republicans have pledged to bring it up again during negotiations over the 2012 federal budget. The continuing controversies over PPACA are only one reason that *Still Broken: Understanding the U.S. Health Care System* is a must-read for engaged citizens, policymakers, students, and scholars alike. The book takes a close look at our problems, proposes solutions to them, and explains how to navigate our political system to effect positive change. It will help readers: * Assess the arguments made by partisans on both sides of the continuing debate. * Understand why President Obama was able to get Congress to pass a comprehensive reform bill even though most of his predecessors tried and failed. * Understand why so many Americans are either confused about its value or actually oppose it. In the book's first part, Stephen M. Davidson paints a lucid picture of the way that the health system works and the forces that produced the monumental problems that we face today. Then, he makes a compelling case for overhauling our system, offering six elements for inclusion in any plan for change. Davidson devotes the last three chapters to a detailed examination of the politics of reform. This assessment will help readers to appreciate both the political achievement represented by passage of the new law and the reasons that opposition to the law remains so widespread, despite all the good it does for the public. Whatever compromises, if any, are accepted by negotiators in the end, the book makes clear why, to fully solve the system's problems, the underlying goal must be to change incentives for all players who participate in the system and, finally, why this goal cannot be achieved by relying solely on market-based solutions. Davidson's captivating and persuasive book demonstrates that only a solution with a large public-sector role can lead us to real reform.

a second opinion arnold s relman: *The Fragmentation of U.S. Health Care* Einer Elhauge, 2010-03-22 Why is our health care system so fragmented in the care it gives patients? Why is there little coordination amongst the many doctors who treat individual patients, who often even lack access to a common set of medical records? Why is fragmentation a problem even within a single hospital, where errors or miscommunications often seem to result from poor coordination amongst the myriad of professionals treating any one individual patient? Why is health care fragmented both over time, so that too little is spent on preventive care, and across patients, so that resources are often misallocated to the patients who need it least? *The Fragmentation of U.S. Health Care: Causes and Solutions* approaches these broad questions with a highly interdisciplinary approach. The articles included in the work address legal and regulatory issues, including laws that mandate separate payments for each provider, restrict hospitals or others from controlling or rewarding the

set of providers treating a patient to assure coordinated care, and provide affirmative disincentives for coordinating care by paying more for uncoordinated care that requires more services. Business reasons for the current form of hospital organization are considered, and efficiency and design are examined and compared to other industries. The economics of current hospital organization are also taken into account. The authors examine and propose various reforms that make our health care system less fragmented, more efficient, and more medically effective.

a second opinion arnold s relman: Taming the Beloved Beast Daniel Callahan, 2018-01-08
Why health care reform must tackle the escalating cost of medical technology Technological innovation is deeply woven into the fabric of American culture, and is no less a basic feature of American health care. Medical technology saves lives and relieves suffering, and is enormously popular with the public, profitable for doctors, and a source of great wealth for industry. Yet its costs are rising at a dangerously unsustainable rate. The control of technology costs poses a terrible ethical and policy dilemma. How can we deny people what they may need to live and flourish? Yet is it not also harmful to let rising costs strangle our health care system, eventually harming everyone? In *Taming the Beloved Beast*, esteemed medical ethicist Daniel Callahan confronts this dilemma head-on. He argues that we can't escape it by organizational changes alone. Nothing less than a fundamental transformation of our thinking about health care is needed to achieve lasting and economically sustainable reform. The technology bubble, he contends, is beginning to burst. Callahan weighs the ethical arguments for and against limiting the use of medical technologies, and he argues that reining in health care costs requires us to change entrenched values about progress and technological innovation. *Taming the Beloved Beast* shows that the cost crisis is as great as that of the uninsured. Only a government-regulated universal health care system can offer the hope of managing technology and making it affordable for all.

a second opinion arnold s relman: Monoculture F. S. Michaels, 2011-04-25 Winner of the George Orwell Award. One of The Atlantic's best books of the year. As human beings, we've always told stories: stories about who we are, where we come from, and where we're going. Now imagine that one of those stories is taking over the others, narrowing our diversity and creating a monoculture. Because of the rise of the economic story, six areas of your world - your work, your relationships with others and the environment, your community, your physical and spiritual health, your education, and your creativity - are changing, or have already changed, in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. And because how you think shapes how you act, the monoculture isn't just changing your mind - it's changing your life. In *Monoculture*, F.S. Michaels draws on extensive research and makes surprising connections among disciplines to take a big-picture look at how one story is changing everything. Her research and writing have been supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Killam Trusts, and regional and municipal arts councils. Michaels has an MBA, and completed five years of PhD studies in Organizational Analysis. She lives in British Columbia, Canada. A single lucid narrative that's bound to first make you somewhat uncomfortable and insecure, then give you the kind of pause from which you can step back and move forward with more autonomy, authenticity and mindfulness than ever. - The Atlantic A thin, enrapturing gem. It's accessible, sensible--exactly the sort of book that should have (and still could + should!) take off and create a tiny little dent in books. - Kenyon Review A smart and realistic guide to first recognizing the monoculture and the challenges of transcending its limitations. - Maria Popova, BrainPickings.org I found myself reading non-stop, underlining like crazy...an astute explanation about what I've been feeling recently, something I couldn't put my finger on...[Michaels] writes in clear, energetic prose that's thoughtful, engaging and unforced. She defines and analyzes without judgment or insistence...a breath of fresh air. - NPR ...a singularly brilliant and accessible analysis of some of the fundamental assumptions and driving principles of our time. - Comment Magazine 5 stars: The cause and effect of our world is more surprising than you'd think. With intriguing notions about the driving ideas of stories in every shape of our life, *Monoculture* is an incredibly fascinating way about how the mind works and today's consumer culture. - Midwest Book Review If you just read one book this year, read this one. - BuriedInPrint.com

a second opinion arnold s relman: *Health Care* Tyler Stevenson, 2018-07-15 Health care reform has been at the center of political debate during the past decade. Everyone agrees the current system needs changes, but it seems few people can agree on how many changes and what kind. Some believe it simply needs a few small adjustments, while others believe it should be completely scrapped and rebuilt from the ground up. Detailed graphs, full-color photographs, annotated quotes from experts, and enlightening sidebars augment the informative text to present readers with all sides of the issue, helping them form their own opinions and strengthen their critical-thinking skills.

a second opinion arnold s relman: *Mission Possible* Swami Subramaniam, Aparajithan Srivathsan, 2024-06-26 Rising affluence is triggering an explosion in lifestyle diseases, driving spiraling growth in healthcare costs and loss of productivity. If this is not checked there is a serious danger of India not realising its economic goals. The provision of healthcare to all Indian citizens, regardless of ability to pay, is a must if we are to avoid this danger. This raises the question - is Universal Health Coverage (UHC) feasible for a large middle-income country like India? The authors have deconstructed the healthcare system as it exists today - wasteful, expensive, and inefficient - to propose an alternative model that is both affordable and high-quality. The ideas presented here may look outrageous when viewed through the prism of what has been the norm, but the authors demonstrate the feasibility of the changes they propose by providing concrete examples of how the changes would work. UHC is within India's means if the political will to implement radical change of the kind described in this book can be mustered. Health for all citizens is not an option but an imperative for a just and thriving republic.

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Charles R. Peterson, 2018-12-07 The famous theologian Karl Barth is known for his admonition that Christians should evaluate major news events in the light of the Bible rather than vice versa. This book reviews attempts at implementing Barth's principle in more than a hundred responses to newspaper editorial opinions over a decades-spanning period. In this exercise, five major theological themes frame the moral engagement of ten newsworthy subject categories. The analysis demonstrates how a biblically-based moral framing can define a center-left politically partisan stance as a guide or challenge to civil public dialogue. A weakness of this venue is that space limitations of newspaper editorial pages allow little potential for achieving what Barth probably had in mind for an effective Christian witness. A different venue is therefore needed. Numerous barriers inhibit such dialogue within Christian congregations, including the stagnating polarization in US politics that has a parallel in most religious traditions. One can hope that the major role for a biblical witness to American culture has not become limited to that partial calling of the Old Testament prophets: warning of the negative historical judgments that risk coming to any society that fails to adequately attempt living out a reverential fear of God.

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