

PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION

We are very pleased to have the opportunity to provide a fifth edition of *The Economics of Health Reconsidered*. Like the fourth edition, this one has been designed to be used as a stand-alone textbook for graduate and advanced undergraduate courses in health economics, or in conjunction with key journal articles in the field. Through the addition of a number of tables containing extensive reviews of literature on health economic topics, the fifth edition can also be consulted as a reference text on health economic issues.

One key change from the previous edition is the addition of a third author: Professor Andrew J. Barnes from Virginia Commonwealth University.

All chapters, figures, and tables have been thoroughly updated. Chapter 4 was expanded so greatly that it needed to be split into two chapters. In this fifth edition, chapter 4 provides a thorough treatment of factors that affect people's demand for health. It explores the social determinants of health, including an examination of the role of education, race/ethnicity, income, gender, sexual and gender minority identities, early childhood experiences, and neighborhood effects. The remaining material from chapter 4 of the fourth edition, covering demand for health insurance and healthcare services, now appears in revised form as chapter 5. (The previous chapter 5, on externalities of consumption, has been deleted; that topic is now briefly discussed in chapter 2.)

Chapter 10, a new chapter, reviews the burgeoning field of the behavioral economics of health, delving into cognitive biases and applying them to a number of health issues, including vaccination, smoking, and obesity. It also shows how behavioral economic tools can be used to influence physicians' behavior. The chapter concludes with limitations of the field and how it fits into the overall study of health economics.

This book has had many updates in the 24 years since the first edition appeared, but its basic theme has remained the same: despite assertions to the contrary, neither economic theory nor evidence shows that reliance on market forces leads to superior outcomes in healthcare systems. Government has a crucial role to play in making the sector not only more equitable but also more efficient.

INSTRUCTOR RESOURCES

This book's instructor resources include an instructor's manual, Power-Point slides, a list of concepts, discussion questions, further readings, and a transition guide to the new edition.

For the most up-to-date information about this book and its instructor resources, go to ache.org/HAP and search for the book's order code (2462).

This book's instructor resources are available to instructors who adopt this book for use in their course. For access information, please email hapbooks@ache.org.