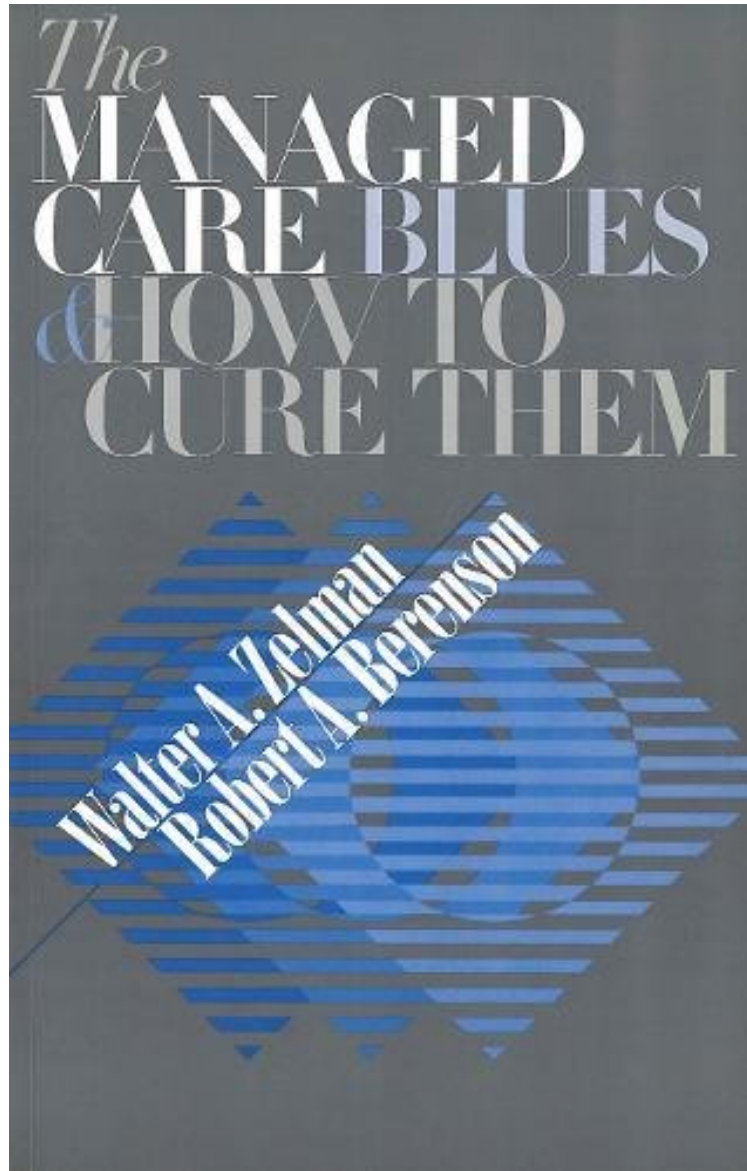


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The Managed Care Blues and How to Cure Them

Walter A. Zelman, Robert A. Berenson

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Walter A. Zelman, Robert A. Berenson : The Managed Care Blues and How to Cure Them before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Managed Care Blues and How to Cure Them:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, Thoughtful, Concise By Kip Piper Excellent, thoughtful, and concise analysis of what works and what doesn't in managed care - and why. The authors make a significant,

highly practical contribution to the study - and improvement - of managed health care. Highly recommended for anyone wanting a sound, balanced grounding in the subject. Would be an excellent book for graduate courses in managed care. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Very readable analysis of the pros and cons of managed care. By A Customer This book provides a very concise but complete discussion of the accomplishments, unfulfilled promises, and problems of managed care. This summary is useful for health policymakers and others especially interested in the subject but is written to be accessible to non-experts. The authors outline several public and private sector policy changes they believe are needed to make managed care more effective and acceptable. The book's strengths are its balanced view of managed care's pros and cons and its identification of often-ignored trade-off between preferences (particularly consumer preferences for unlimited choice of doctors and medical services) and the desire (on the part of employers and government, which pay most of the bill) to control medical care spending. This book should be required reading for everyone participating in public discussion of health care regulation and "reform." 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The best overview in print - concise, lively, informed. By A Customer In lively, concise chapters, Zelman and Berenson explain why and how managed care came about, what it is, what its problems are, and how they propose to solve them. My class loved the book. I was impressed by their judgment in highlighting just the right details from a vast history to carry their argument. I also was impressed by their honesty; they are keen on managed care but are candid about its failure to realize its potential for improving quality. Their concluding recommendations are fine, but the trends in the industry which they identify are blocking the changes they would like to see. Is managed care its own worst enemy?

Shattering the myths about what's wrong with managed health care, this penetrating introduction to managed care explains its origins and identifies its real achievements and shortcomings. Walter A. Zelman and Robert A. Berenson argue that many criticisms of managed care tend to idealize the costly and fragmented insurance system it supplanted, without pinpointing the true inadequacies of today's managed care. In addition to providing reasoned answers to the most alarmist critiques of managed care, the authors maintain that it has not fulfilled its potential to improve the overall quality of care. The authors propose thirteen concrete recommendations for raising quality in managed care programs, ranging from enacting additional legal protections and increased disclosure to putting the purchasing power in the hands of those who care most about quality individuals, rather than employers. With practical solutions for making managed care better, *The Managed Care Blues* and *How to Cure Them* is a bold call for greater consumer protection, knowledge, and power in the health care arena.

"Timely . . . presents a well balanced review of the managed health care world as it actually exists. . . . provides a fine resource for those who genuinely want, or need, to take a balanced review of managed health care . . . The authors provide a worthy service in elucidating, as clearly and articulately as one might hope, a fair discussion of issues in the industry." *Healthplan* "At long last, an honest, frank appraisal of managed care, by two of the nation's most respected policy analysts. A must read for anyone concerned about these critical issues." Philip R. Lee, MD, former Secretary of Health and professor emeritus, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco "Zelman and Berenson have written one of the most important health policy books of the decade. It identifies the phony managed care issues false consumerism and hysteria over anecdotes and then moves on to the true issues its failure to fulfill its potential to improve quality of care and to build a system of evidenced-based care. Their ability to explain the complex simply makes the reading a pleasure." Jon Gabel, director, Center for Survey Research, KPMG Peat Marwick, LLP "A provocative account of where our health care system is, where it was, and where it is going. It broadens the debate and raises compelling questions for all stakeholders." Karen Ignagni, president, American Association of Health Plans **About the Author** Walter A. Zelman is an instructor in health policy and management at the School of Public Health at Harvard University. He has served as a special deputy to the commissioner of the California Department of Insurance and as the California director of Common Cause, the public interest group. Robert A. Berenson, MD, is currently director of the Center for Health Policy Plus and Providers in the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services. He has practiced medicine for more than twenty years and was the founder and medical director of the National Capital Preferred Provider Organization. Both authors have served as health policy advisors to the White House.