Index

Abortion, 25, 39–42
and cost containment, 37–38
Administrative expenses, 10, 11, 26
Adverse selection risks, xvii–xviii, 126, 128
Advertising for patients, 55
Alternative medicine
  growing market for, 55, 58
  and licensure requirements, 31–32
Ambulatory centers, surgical procedures in, 99
American Medical Association
  abortion endorsed by, 42
  and euthanasia, 42
  Medicare opposed by, 30
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, 2009), 18, 106, 113
Anti-market bias, 43–44
Assumptions, health policy conventional wisdom flaws. See Misconceptions concerning health care
Autism
  cost of care for, 92
  reportedly linked to vaccines, 106
Automobile manufacturers, 109, 110
  retiree health benefits for, 73–74
Back pain, 48, 50
Bernard of Chartres, quoted, v
Billing, creative, 9
Birth defects, 91–93
Boutique or concierge medicine, 124
Bridges to Excellence, 45–46
British National Health Service. See England or Britain
Canada
  financial strains on single-payer system in, 124–25
  nonmedical determinants of health in, 80
  and private health insurance, 88
  and tiered system, 89
  Canadian health care model, 10–11
  and soundness of claims for government takeover, xviii
Cancer treatment, and screening, 95
Capture thesis of regulation, 86
Centralized planning and control, xix
  vs. market mechanisms, xviii, 89–90
  misconceived to be superior, 84–90
Charitable obligation to care for poor, 26
Childhood immunization, 94
Chronic conditions, 47–48
  array of choices for treatment of, 132
  costs of, 91
  deadly diseases transformed into, 93
  differing treatment practices for, 103
  fragmented health care system unsuited for, 14–15
  savings seen from improved treatment of, 34
Clinical autonomy, 29–30, 35, 99, 104. See also Self-regulation of medical practice
Commercialization of health care, 27
  and courts’ ruling on doctor–patient relationship, 31
Comparative effectiveness research, 106
Competition. See Market mechanisms
Conflicts of interest, and research, 106–107
Congress. See also Government; Political intrusion
  planning initiatives by, 85
  and process of health care reform, 21–23
Consumer-centric system of health care delivery, 58
  consumer-directed health plans, 74–75
  (see also Health savings accounts)
Consumer-centric system of health care delivery (cont.)
as idea whose time has arrived. xiv
patient decision-making, 31, 38, 47, 58
for chronic conditions, 48
and cost containment, 125–26
in new paradigm, 132
and sharing in efficiency savings, 126
Consumer good, health care as, xvi, 38, 54–58
Consumer–provider spending alliance, need to sever, 126
Contraception, 40
Cost–benefit analysis, absence of in post–WWII period, 8
Cost containment or control
and abortion or end-of-life care, 37–38
congressional initiatives for, 85
consumer partnership in, 46, 125–26, 130 (see also Health savings accounts; Voucher systems)
and health savings accounts in Europe, 71–72
and efficiency savings, xx
employers and employees as stakeholders in, 111
and expansion of coverage, 21
in new paradigm, 133
political interference impairs, 79
in reconfigured health policy, 110
vs. universal coverage in legislative package, 23
Cost-effectiveness
HMO leadership in, 70
other countries’ scrutinizing of, 5
Cost-sharing, 49–52, 58
in high-deductible plans, 74
for Medicare, 122–23
in reconfigured health policy, 110, 126
Cost-shifting, 12, 13, 74
Cottage industry features of health care system, xiv, xv, 14–15, 85
Creative billing practices, 9
Cross-national comparisons
on control of financing, 87–88
on savings from single-payer system, 78
on value of health care, 83
Culture of health care, xv
classical/religious background to, 24, 25–26, 38
idealized standards of conduct, 24, 27
as impediment to reform, 35, 37
special status, 27–28
clinical autonomy, 29–30 (see also Clinical autonomy; Self-regulation of medical practice)
and state regulation, 28–29
trust in physicians, 24–25, 42
Deaths, from medical errors, 98–99
Defensive medicine, providers’ complaints about, 16
Deficit and debt, federal, 43–44, 60–64, 116, 119
Demand, vs. need, 58
Democratic Party, creative reform views in, 131
Demographic transition, aging, 66–68
Diabetes, 93
Dietary changes, preventive potential of, 28
Digital interconnectedness, 15, 18. See also Electronic highway; Information technology
Disability benefits, abuse of in Europe, 50
Disease management practices, xix
Doctor–patient relationship. See Physician–patient relationship
Drug therapies
competition in, 57
cost of, 37, 107
differing treatment practices in, 103
Medicare’s gaps in, 62
off-label use of, 104
Education. See Medical education; Students of health services management
Effectiveness research, comparative, 106
Efficacy and effectiveness standards, xix
Elderly persons
and costs of life-expectancy gains, 81
health spending on, xviii–xix, 84
increasing number of, 66–68, 81
in Medicaid, 122–23
Medicare-Medicaid combined program for, 122
and quality of life, 39
regional variation in treatment costs for, 83
Elective services, 38, 57, 88
Electronic highway. See Information technology
Employer health coverage, xvii, 111–15
and business support for reform, 20
cost to government of, 114
disadvantages of, 6–7, 59–60, 121–22
need to end, 109, 110–11
and new realities, xvii, xx, 72–75
origin of in tax incentives, 8
reduction in (1990s), 65
Employers, in reconfigured health policy, 109, 110, 115
End-of-life care, and cost containment, 37–38
England or Britain
electronic records in, 103
health-spending growth contained in, 34
health-status disparities not eliminated in, xix, 96
market principles introduced in, 88
pressures for increased spending in, 79
public spending on elderly in, 84
as shifting away from universal comprehensive care, 124
and soundness of claims for government takeover, xviii
and supposed savings from prevention, 95
Entitlement programs. See also Medicaid; Medicare; Social Security
cost of concealed, 78
deficit size concealed by, 63
equitarian-egalitarian foundation of eroded, 122
financial burden of, xvi, 44, 60, 62, 64, 68, 75, 115
and aging population, 60, 67
future growth in, 64, 116–17, 121
and need for restraint, 109
and taxation, 118, 119
fully funded approach needed for, 120
future limitation of financing of, 129
in reconfigured health policy, 110
Errors, medical. See Medical errors
European Union, deficit-level norms of, 60
Evidence-based medical treatments, 106
Expert decision-making, vs. conflict and politics, 86

Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP), 69, 70, 120, 125
Fee-for-service medicine
and AMA opposition to Medicare enactment, 30
as disincentive to information-technology adoption, 102
end to, 72
proposed, 119
as inflationary factor, 32, 38, 78, 98
in parallel with government systems, 89
public endorsement of, 30
and success of health care reform, 30
Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), cost of care for, 92

Finances, federal. See Deficit and debt, federal
Finances, of state government, 64–66
Financing of health care. See Health care financing
First-dollar coverage, 51, 79
and employers, xvi, 8, 75
vs. major medical expenses protection, xvii, 52
Food and Drug Administration, as captive to pharmaceutical industry, 86
Fragmentation of health care services, xiv, xv, 14–15
Fraud and abuse, 13–14
Medicare regulations as environment for, 130
Free-good psychology, 8, 46, 50, 68
inflationary effect of, 46, 50–51, 78, 115, 125
Free-rider problem, 127

Geisenger Health System, 102
General practitioners, for primary care, 6
Government. See also Congress; Political intrusion
and capture thesis of regulation, xix, 86
health care role of, xviii (see also National health insurance; Single-payer coverage)
reality scenarios for, 69–72
and reconfigured health policy, 110, 126, 128–29
health care spending by, 63–64, 115–17
(see also Health care spending)
and deficit/debt crisis, 43–44, 60–64, 119, 121
in subsidizing of premiums, 129
and taxation predicaments, 117–19
and voucher system, 119–20
as inefficient, 45
Great Depression, 24
Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound, 70

Health care
antiquated condition of, xiv
consumer-driven, xiv
as consumer good, xvi, 38, 54–58
government takeover of, xiii (see also National health insurance; Single-payer coverage)
as hallmark of civilized society, 25
increased costliness of, 59
market competition not applicable to, 30–32
physician-created demand in, 24
misconceived as safe and efficacious, 97–107
1960s condition of, 3
and public reaction against orthodox medicine, 28
role of profit in, 26
and saving lives vs. saving money, 95–96
social disparities in, 96–97
as social good, 27, 32–33
Health care culture. See Culture of health care
Health care financing. See also Health care spending; Pricing of health care
change needed in, 72
of Medicare, 67
perverse effects of, 8–13, 99–100, 125–26
overuse, 83–84
Health care industry, 4
as cottage industry, xiv, xv, 14–15, 85
as immune from economic downturns, 4
lobbying by, 22–23
and market forces, 85
and publicly traded hospital firms, 45
Health care pricing. See Pricing of health care
Health care reform, 1–2, 19, 35
and change in public opinion, 30
compromise inescapable in, 21–24
corporate innovations as spurring, 45–56
and current economic distress, 19, 20, 59, 60
overcoming resistance to, 37
risk in, 35
Health care spending. See also Cost containment or control; Pricing of health care
behavioral factors in, 90–91
and cost-sharing, 51–52, 58 (see also Cost-sharing)
efficacy of, xviii, 97–107
for elective surgery, 57
and expenses of insurers, 11, 26
and fee-for-service as inflationary, 38, 78, 98 (see also Fee-for-service medicine)
and free-good psychology, 46, 50–51, 68, 78, 115, 125
government share of, 63–64, 115–17
and deficit crisis, 119, 121
in subsidizing of premiums, 129
and taxation predicaments, 117–19
and voucher system, 119–20
growth of, 2–4, 46
and high-technology medicine, 7 (see also High-technology medicine)
prime sources of, xv–xvi
as income for someone, 21
long–term arguments for increase in, 20–21
and mandated benefits, 79
misconceived as of prime importance to health and longevity, 80–84
and national health insurance/single payer, 33, 49, 77–80 (see also National health insurance; Single-payer coverage)
and primary care from general practitioners, 6
in recession situation, 20
in reconfigured health policy (government spending curbed), 115–20
and reduction in number of uninsured, 21
and state budgets, 65, 121
for universal coverage, 78
value acquired for, 4–5
for very young and very old, 84 (see also Elderly persons)
neonatal care, 37, 38, 81, 92–93, 111
through voucher system, 69–70, 119–20, 126 (see also Voucher systems)
wasted portion of, 97–98
Health disparities, universal coverage as eliminating, 34–35
Health insurance. See Insurance
Health maintenance. See also Preventive medicine
and fragmentation of service, 15
individual responsibility for, xiv
Health maintenance organizations. See HMOs

Health policy
convergence of public and private in, 133
(see also Public–private partnerships)
issues facing, xiii
pragmatism needed in, xiii
reality scenarios for, 69–72
transformation of (post–World War II), 1
Health policy reconfigured, 109–10
consumer partnership for cost containment, 125–26
employer role in, 109, 110, 115
government health spending curbed, 115–20
government intervention in, 128–29
household responsibility in, 126–27, 129
and insurance-industry consolidation, 127–28
Medicare’s equalitarian foundation diminished, 122–25
and national health insurance as unviable, 120–21
revised paradigm of, 129–34
Health savings accounts, xvii, 70–71, 74–75, 126, 130, 132
Health screening, xix, 94–95
Health status, and health care spending, xviii, 80–84
Henry Ford Health System, 102
High-deductible insurance plans, 74, 126
High-technology medicine
exclusionary policies favoring use of, 28
and overuse, 83
patient harm from, 7
preoccupation with, 4–5, 5–8
HMOs (health maintenance organizations)
and hospital prices, 86
leadership established by, 70
for-profit, 85
Hospice care, 42
Hospital chains, for-profit, 85
Hospital firms, publicly traded, 45
Hospitals
competitive marketing and advertising by, 85–86
failure of efforts to restrain, 87
financial pressures on, 105
health hazards in, 17
and Medicare, 9, 11–12
more serious procedures in, 99
physicians as employees of, 104–105
prospective payments to, 72, 85
small hospitals among, 14
Household responsibility, in reconfigured health policy, 126–27, 129
and insurance-industry consolidation, 127–28
House Ways and Means Committee, 22
HSAs. See Health savings accounts

Ideology
fading influence of, xx, 134
and failure of attempts at health reform, 43
and national health insurance, 68
need to transcend, xiv, xx
policy makers turning away from, 90
Immigrants, illegal and uninsured, 52
Immunization, childhood, 94
Individual responsibility, xiv. See also Consumer-centric system of health care delivery
need for, 76
with scaled ability pay, xvi
Infant mortality, factors in, xviii, 80
Infants with birth defects, 91–93. See also Neonatal care
Inflation, and federal spending, 61–62
Information asymmetry, in health care decision-making, 31
Information technology, 101–102. See also Digital interconnectedness; Electronic highway
claims for savings from, 21
fear of abuse of, 101
insufficient utilization of, 100–101, 102–103
likely settings for, 102
need for standardized system of, 15
for quality control systems, 18
savings seen from investment in, 34
Infrastructure
failings of, 35
well-grounded information necessary for, 106
Insurance (health). See also Uninsured persons
for catastrophic illness, 52, 58
coverage limitations of, 2
first-dollar coverage, 51, 79
and employers, xvi, 8, 75
vs. major medical expenses, xvii, 52
Insurance (health) (cont.)
high-deductible, 126
  in employer coverage, 74
for individuals not through employer, 113–14
special rationale for, 32
Insurance, mandatory. See Mandatory
  individual purchase of insurance
Insurance companies
consolidation of, 127
multiplicity of, 10
overhead costs of, 10, 78 (see also Administrative expenses)
as similar to public utilities, 128
Insurance industry
expenses of, 11, 26
group market declining in, 128
regulation of, xviii
Insurers, universal enrollment required of, xvii–xviii
Integrated health care teams, absence of, 29
Interest groups, xv, 19, 86. See also Lobbyists
Intermountain HealthCare, 102
Internet
global health care market reached through, 89
medical information found on, 47, 55
Inverse Need Law, xix, 82, 96
Japan, health spending and life expectancy in, 82
Kaiser Permanente, 70, 102
Keynesian economics, 24
Law of Inverse Need, xix, 82, 96
Leapfrog Group, 45–46
Legal environment, of health care, 16–17
Legislative process, for health care reform, 22–23
Licensure requirements, 31
Life
  controversy over beginning of, 42
  sacredness of, 25
Life expectancy
for infants with severe congenital disorders, 91
misconceived to be purchasable, 80–84
Lifestyle changes
  and health savings accounts, 75
  preventive potential of, 28
Life support, withdrawal of, 39
Litigation. See Malpractice issues and litigation
Lobbyists, 28–29
  and health care legislation, 22–23
  and politicians’ staffs, 87
  success of as business, 86
Longevity. See Life expectancy
Long-term care
  in England, 84
  federal government pressured to support, 94
  and Medicaid, 66
Malpractice issues and litigation
  and legal environment of physicians, 16–17
  need to replace, 105
  patient participation as reducing, 132
  quality control subjugated to, 105
  and shared decision-making, 48–49
  as state government responsibility, 28
Managed care, 46, 70. See also HMOs
  federal government’s payments to, 26
  and Medicare, 125
  not-for-profit, 132
  physicians’ hostility toward, 30
  for profit, 70
  public attitude toward, 30
Management, physicians’ suspicion toward, xv
Managerial methods opposed to paternalism, xvi
Mandated benefits, 79
Mandatory individual purchase of insurance, xviii, 53, 127, 128, 129, 131
  and centrist Democrats, 54
  in Massachusetts, xiii, 127
  and new realities, 69
  and uninsured able to afford insurance, 53
Market mechanisms, xiv, xvi, 55–58, 130–31
  as added to funded systems in some countries, 54
  bias against, 43–44, 54–55
  and health-culture suspicions, 38
  vs. centralized planning and control, xviii, 89–90
  and elective services, 38
  hidden pragmatism of, 44–46
  as inapplicable to health care, 30–32
and physician-created demand, 24
increasing legitimacy of, 54
and Medicare/Medicaid, 85
vs. national health insurance, 68
protection against granted to physicians, 27
value-focused, 56
Massachusetts mandatory purchase pro-
gram, xiii, 127
Medicaid, 2. See also Entitlement programs
Canada’s federal–provincial partnership
parallel to, 125
and congressional planning initiatives, 85
and Federal Employee Health Benefit
Plan, 69
flaws in, 11–12
fraud and abuse in, 13–14
future budgetary strains from, 63, 64
future government role in, 129
and health spending increase, 3
improved coverage of children in, 33
and long-term care, 66
and low-birth-rate pregnancies, 93
needed reform of, 119
out-of-pocket payments for, 121
seniors in, 122–23
spending increase after passage of, 84
and state government finances, 12–13,
64–65, 65, 66
unfunded future liabilities for, 62
Medical education
and errors as learning tools, 17, 105
government influence on, 10
as restriction on entry into medical
practice, 31–32
Medical errors, 98, 99
as cause of death, 17
as concealed by malpractice fears, 105
Medicare’s refusal of payment for, 9
rates of, xix
reduction of, 131
reporting of, 17
Medical history, inadequate information
on provided, 100
Medical paternalism, xv–xvi, 47–49
Medical profession
der deference granted to, 99
high public regard for, 30
Medicare, 2. See also Entitlement programs
administration and overhead for, 11
AMA’s opposition to enactment, 30
change in hospital payment system for, 56
and congressional planning initiatives, 85
cost-sharing enacted in, 122–23
differences among treatment payments
under, 105
drug expenses of, 37
as equalitarian, xx, 110, 122–25
federal deficit size concealed by, 63
and Federal Employee Health Benefit
Plan, 69
fee for service in, 6
financial crisis of, xvii, 115–16
and unfunded future liabilities, 62
financial pressures on enrollees in (early
1990s), 65–66
financing of, 67
as spending concern, 30
flaws in, 11–12
fraud and abuse in, 13–14
and enormity of regulations, 130
future limited government role in,
128–29
growth in expenditures for, 62, 63
and health industry lobbying, 23
and health-spending increase, 3
immense number of regulations for, 87,
130
HMO competition for contracts from, 70
increased numbers eligible for, 60
needed reform of, 119
overuse of services through, 83
and payments to teaching hospitals, 10
physicians’ threats to withdraw from,
123–24
prevention as bringing increased spend-
ing for, 94
private managed care firms in, 26
privatizing of, 125
prospective payment system for, 72, 85, 87
in reconfigured health policy, 110
re-hospitalization of patients in, 100
restraints on presumed, 61
spending increase after passage of, 84
spending on in last six months or year of
life, 37, 93
spending limits of, 9
underestimation of expenditure for
(1990), 79
unrestrained spending for, 121
variation in patient cost for, 103
vouchers in, xvii, 125
Military preparedness, and health care as social good, 33
Misconceptions concerning health care, 77, 108
centralized planning and control as superior, 84–90
health services as safe and efficacious, 97–107
health spending lowered by single-payer coverage, 77–80
health status and longevity as purchasable, 80–84
prevention as generating big savings, 90–96
universal coverage as eliminating social health care disparities, 96–97
Multi–tiered health care, xvii
National health insurance, xvi, xx, 10, 59, 120–21. See also Single-payer coverage argument for in time of economic crisis, 20
and disadvantages of employer-coverage system, 7
faults of, 69
and health care as mark of civilized society, 25
ideologically driven agenda for, 68
lack of public support for, 19–20
low penalty fees as strategy for, 73
and 1960s climate, 3
perniciously conceived as eliminating influence of price, 49
politics of, 77
and reconfigured health policy, 110
redemptive power of, 33–35
repeated failures of, 132–33
savings as chief argument for, 33–34
seen as economic necessity, 60
as utopian ideal, xvi, 68–69, 75
National Institutes of Health, 4
Need, vs. demand, 58
Neonatal care, 37, 38, 81, 92–93, 111
New health policy paradigm, xx, 129–34
Noncompliance with medical instructions, 48
minimizing of, 75
through patient participation, 132
Not-for-profit hospitals, controversial tax benefits for, 26
Nurse practitioners, 28
Obama administration, 70
health care plan of, 34
and private–public collaboration, 54
Off-label use of drugs, 104
Older persons. See Elderly persons
Organization of physician services, 14
Overseas health care, 57
Paternalism, medical, xv–xvi, 47–49
Patient(s), and cost containment, 46
Patient as consumer. See at Consumer
Patient freedom of choice, and success of health care reform, 30. See also Consumer-centric system of health care delivery
Patient–physician relationship. See Physician–patient relationship
Payroll taxes, 117–18
Pharmaceutical firms
Food and Drug Administration as captive to, 86
new conditions defined by, 78
Physician-assisted suicide, 42–43
and magnitude of health-care spending in last year of life, 93–94
Physician flight
from malpractice threats, 16
from Medicare, 11
Physician–patient relationship
change in, 47
as new paradigm, 131–32
as collaboration or partnership, 48, 49, 55
(see also Consumer-centric system of health care delivery)
as consumer–provider alliance for spending and against reform, 30, 50, 126
paternalism, xv–xvi, 47–49
trust in, 24–25, 42
Physician reimbursement. See Fee-for-service medicine
Physicians
controlling supply of, 9–10, 27–28, 31–32
as creating demand, 24
in fiduciary relationship to patient, 31
as hospital employees, 104–105
income anxiety of, 11
income of from volume, 99–100
as needed for improvement, 105
organization of, 14
specialists as dominant among, 5–6
as unqualified sometimes for medical procedures performed, 104
Physician sovereignty. See Clinical
autonomy; Self-regulation of medical practice
Political intrusion. See also Congress;
Government
and centralized planning, 86–87 (see also
Centralized planning and control)
and cost control, 79
failure of, 130
as inadequately informed, 87
vs. market mechanisms, xvi, 44, 89
and Medicare payments, 11
and Medicare/Social Security trust fund
accounting, 63
Population aging, xvii, 66–68. See also
Elderly persons
Poverty and poor persons
inferior health care for, 82
intergenerational, 97
Pragmatism, 133
of market competition, 44–46
need for, xiii, xx
new higher regard for, 134
rise of, 54
Prescription drugs. See Drug therapies
Preventive medicine
claims for savings from, 21
and cost-sharing, 51
and fragmentation of service, 15
and health savings accounts, 71, 75
misconceived as generating big savings,
90–96
savings from, xix, 34
Pricing of health care. See also Health care
spending
discriminatory, xvii–xviii, 128
and health care insurance, 32
historic practice of, 8
government limits on, 9
for Medicare, 87
regional variations in, 103
Primary care clinics, growth of, 57
Primary care services
deterrents to in US, 6
emphasis on in other countries, 5
and general practitioners, 6
and restrictions on use of nurse practi-
tioners, 28
Privacy of medical records, 26, 101
Private health insurance. See Insurance
Productivity, health services as increas-
ing, 81
Professional sovereignty. See Clinical
autonomy; Self-regulation of medical practice
Profit, in health care, 26. See also Market
mechanisms
Public health measures, 80, 82
Public–private partnerships, xviii, 38, 51, 54
Quality of care, reimbursement not tied
to, 9
Quality control
ambiguity of, 104
deficiencies in, 17–18
litigious atmosphere as barrier to, 17
as subjugated to malpractice concerns,
105
Quality improvement
through improved information technol-
gy, 101
litigious impairment of, 16–17
through market mechanisms, 131
in new paradigm, 133
noncompliance as barrier to, 48
physicians needed in, 105–106
Quality of life values, 38–39
Rationing
as assumption of national health insur-
ance advocates, 68–69
of Canadian elective procedures, 10–11
and example of England, 80
in international comparisons, 87–88
in less wealthy countries’ policies on
high-tech medicine, 5
popular disenchantment with, 89
Readmittance to hospitals, 56, 100
as double pay for hospital, 9
Recession of 2008, 3, 43
Reconfigured health policy. See Health
policy, reconfigured
Reform of health care. See Health care
reform
Regional variations in treatment costs, 83
Regulation, capture thesis of, xix, 86
Regulation by states, 28–29
Religion
and abortion, 42
as source of health care precepts, 25–26
Reporting of medical errors, 17
Requirement of health insurance purchase, xvi–xvii
Research on medical treatments, differences in, 106–107
Revised health policy paradigm, 129–34
Right-to-health-care doctrine, need to examine, 124

Say, Jean-Baptist, and Say’s Law, 24
Schools of medicine, 28
Scientific evidence, medical practice as neglecting, xix
Screening tests, xix, 94–95
Second opinions, 47
Self-interest. See also Market mechanisms harnessing of for common good, 132–33
Self-regulation of medical practice (professional sovereignty), 27, 28, 99. See also Clinical autonomy
conflicts of interest as jeopardizing, 107
as resistance to change, 35
as waning, 48
Seniors. See Elderly persons
Sickness, ambiguity of, 79–80
Sick pay, abuse of in Europe, 50
Sick role, 27
Single-payer coverage, 108. See also National health insurance
vs. administrative costs of present system, 10, 11, 26–27
argument for in time of economic crisis, 20
and disadvantages of employer-coverage system, 7
faults of, 56
feeds free-good mentality and inflationary spending, 49
as miscast to lower spending, 77–80
vs. new paradigm, 129
savings as chief argument for, 33–34
stealth measures for achieving, 121
as utopian ideal, xvi
Social disparities in health coverage, medical vs. environmental and lifestyle factors in, 96–97
Social equity in employer-coverage policy, 114
and HSAs, 71
Social good, health care as, 27, 32–33
Social Security. See also Entitlement programs
federal deficit size concealed by, 63
financial crisis of, xvii
and future budgetary strains, 63, 64
financing of, 67
increased numbers eligible for, 60
needed reform of, 119
prevention bringing increased spending for, 94
reduction in, 123
unfunded future liabilities for, 62
Socioeconomic differences
as health care accessibility, 34–35, 82, 96
and Medicare, 122
Soviet Union, health care in, 88
Sparrow, Malcolm, 13–14
Special interests. See Interest groups
Specialists, as dominant in US, 5–6
Standards of efficacy and effectiveness, difficulty of devising, xix
State government finances, 12–13, 64–66, 121. See also Medicaid
State legislators, coverage mandates from, 79
Students of health services management policy, and understanding of market role, 133
Suicide, physician-assisted, 42–43
Supply of physicians, control of, 9–10, 27–28, 31–32
Taxation predicaments, 118–19
and payroll taxes, 117–18
Taxes, payroll, 117–18
Tax incentives, 54
Tax subsidies for health insurance, in reconfigured health policy, 115
Teenage pregnancy and longevity, 80
unwed, 40–41
Telemedicine, 29
Terminally ill patients, 93
Third parties vs. consumer, 46
and costs, 11
and failure of cost containment, 125
and free-good perception, 8
and inflationary spending, xv, 38, 49
and market competition, 32
medical profession’s opposition to, 29
multiplicity of, 10

Transparency
improvement needed in, 17–18, 46
and patients as consumers, 47, 55

Trust, in culture of health care, 24–25, 42

Uninsured persons, xvi, 52–54
able to afford health insurance, 53–54, 126
and Canadian system, 88
and federal budget strains, 1, 52
increased demand from reduction in
number of, 21
mandated benefits as exacerbating problem of, 79
and over-reliance on high-tech medicine, 6

Unions, pressure from, 89

United States
health care spending vs. results in, 4–5
and life expectancy, 81–82
health status in, 82–83
as high-tech leader, 7
lagging health care in, 18
as uniquely lacking universal coverage, 5

Universal health coverage, 35
argument for in time of economic crisis, 20
claims for savings from, 21
cost of, 78
current plan for, xiii
and Obama administration, 34
fiscal responsibility needed for, 59
household responsibility in, 126–27, 129
and insurance–industry consolidation, 127–28
as imperative, 75–76
inflationary ramifications of, 134
and legislative reform package, 23
through mandatory individual purchase, 129 (see also Mandatory individual purchase of insurance)
vs. market-based insurance system, 26–27
misconceived to eliminate social health care disparities, 96–97
necessary preconditions for, 70, 72

Veterans Administration, and information technology, 103

Voucher systems, 69–70, 119–20, 126, 130, 132
and employer coverage, 72–73
Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan as, 69
in Medicare, xvi, 125
and prevention, 75

Wasteful spending, as public financing stumbling block, 1

Wellness and wellness programs
and fragmentation of service, 15
individual responsibility for, xiv
misconceived as generating big savings, 90–96

World Health Organization
on expansionary all inclusive conception of health, 50
on health care as purchasable, 80