

INTRODUCTION TO
**HEALTH CARE
DELIVERY**

A Primer for Pharmacists

FIFTH EDITION

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To my grandson, Patrick Robert McCarthy.
—Robert L. McCarthy

To my wife, Donna, for her love and the
many anniversaries to come.
—Kenneth W. Schafermeyer

To my husband, Michael, whose love and
support have never wavered.
—Kimberly S. Plake

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Preface

When the *First Edition* was published in 1998, Professor McCarthy hoped to meet a textbook need he felt was not adequately met. As an instructor who taught healthcare delivery, systems, and policy, he had long sought a book that provided an introduction to this rapidly evolving area, but that would do so from the perspective of pharmacy. In subsequent editions, we believe that we have been true to his original intent. Over the years, as we developed new editions, we tried to be responsive to the needs of our colleagues by adding, subtracting, and changing subject matter; by providing active learning exercises; and by developing online resources for instructors and students. Given the rapidly changing nature of healthcare delivery, we have also been committed to an aggressive revision schedule; this *Fifth Edition* is being published just 13 years after the *First Edition*.

The *Fifth Edition* includes several major revisions and chapter restructures to reflect the current reality, which one might argue is the most dynamic period in American health care yet. Given the changes in health information technology and mental health care, the reader will see significant changes in the chapters exploring these important topics. Medication therapy management and the medical home appear prominently for the first time. At the request of our adopters, a comprehensive chapter on public health has once again been included. *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010*, the most sweeping piece of federal healthcare legislation since the passage Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s, is addressed in detail, including a description of the pharmacy-specific provisions that have the potential to alter the way in which pharmacy is practiced and pharmacy services are reimbursed in the United States.

We hope you will find the *Fifth Edition of Introduction to Health Care Delivery: A Primer for Pharmacists* achieves the goals of its forebears, but also enables instructors and students of healthcare delivery to consider, more fully, how healthcare services in general—and pharmacy services in particular—are delivered. Moreover, we hope that the text and its supplementary materials—including those provided online—will facilitate thoughtful discussions among students, faculty, and practitioners about not only how health care is delivered, but how the system might be improved for all those seeking care.

This book is also accompanied by extensive student resources. To learn more, visit: <http://go.jblearning.com/mccarthy5>.

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