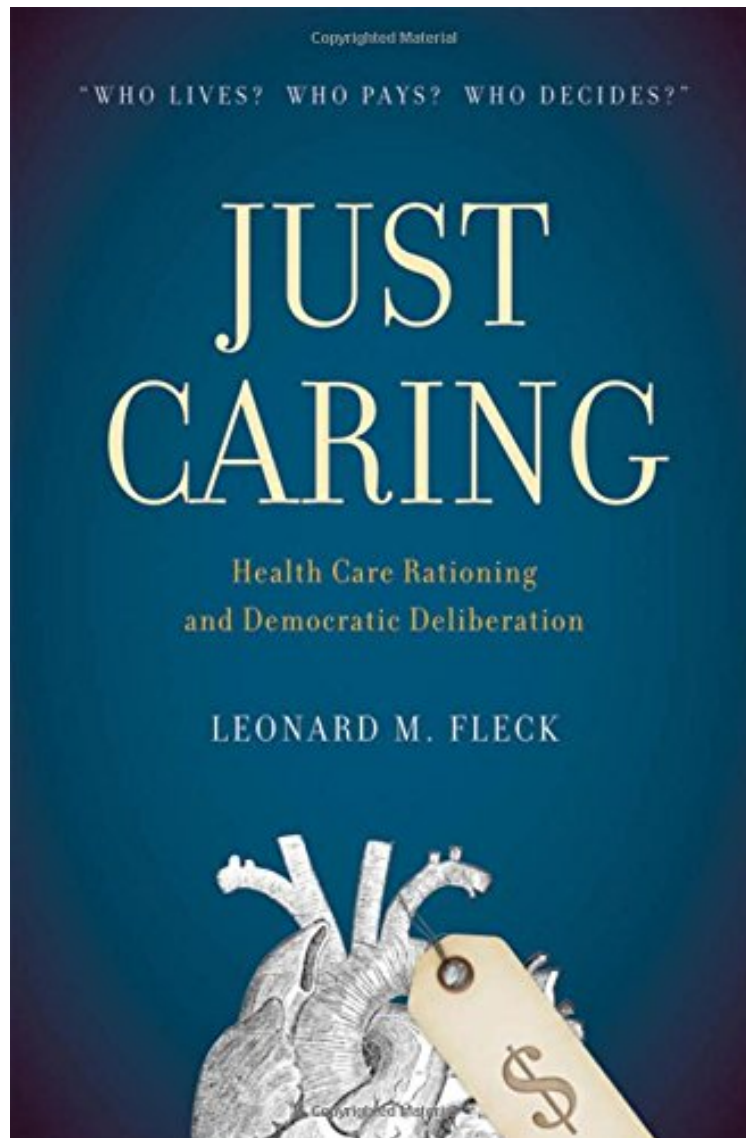


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Just Caring: Health Reform

Leonard M. Fleck

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#2750041 in Books 2006-06-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.20 x 1.40 x 9.201, 1.75 #File Name: 0195128044480 pages | File size: 76.Mb

Leonard M. Fleck : Just Caring: Health Reform before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Just Caring: Health Reform:

What does it mean to be a "just" and "caring" society when we have only limited resources to meet unlimited health care needs? Do we believe that all lives are of equal value? Is human life priceless? Should a "just" and "caring"

society refuse to put limits on health care spending? In *Just Caring*, Leonard Fleck reflects on the central moral and political challenges of health reform today. He cites the millions of Americans who go without health insurance, thousands of whom die prematurely, unable to afford the health care needed to save their lives. Fleck considers these deaths as contrary to our deepest social values, and makes a case for the necessity of health care rationing decisions. The core argument of this book is that no one has a moral right to impose rationing decisions on others if they are unwilling to impose those same rationing decisions on themselves in the same medical circumstances. Fleck argues we can make health care rationing fair, in ways that are mutually respectful, if we engage in honest rational democratic deliberation. Such civic engagement is rare in our society, but the alternative is endless destructive social controversy that is neither just nor caring.

"Justice is a slippery concept. It becomes especially complex and controversial when we try to conceive what justice entails in the allocation of health care. This bold volume explains the need for rationing health care and provides the reader with clear and accessible accounts of the medical science, economics, demographics, and philosophic concepts involved in the decisions that have to be made. Fleck also offers his own process of rational democratic deliberation as the means for achieving a just system of health care distribution based upon priorities that are publicly acknowledged and broadly accepted. *Just Caring* is a remarkably well-researched, scholarly achievement. It is a valuable resource and required reading for anyone who wants to grapple with the problems of allocating health care in today's world."--Rosamund Rhodes, PhD, Professor: Medical Education, Director: Bioethics Education, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York "Americans like to think that our society is both just and decent. Leonard Fleck challenges us to think about what health care choices would live up to the description. He shows us that the answer will lie in all of us having a special sort of conversation. He has here written a well-reasoned and comprehensive guide to getting that conversation up and running."--Howard Brody, MD, PhD, Institute for the Medical Humanities, University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, and author of *The Future of Bioethics* "This should prove a very useful and important contribution to the field of healthcare reform, though since the book may reward only the meticulous and sophisticated reader, the form may undercut its populist function. However, the inherent messiness of the subject is probably too often ill-served by books and articles that reduce it to a tidy zero-sum game and thus this may be one of the few honest books dedicated to healthcare rationing in the United States."--Doody's Health Sciences "Just Caring: Health Care Rationing and Democratic Liveration vividly potrays the complexity and scope of problems related to allocation of health care resources. It leaves little doubt that the implications of these problems for the nation's well-being are alarming....Just Caring makes a compelling case that health care resources should be allocated in a far more transparent way than they are now."--JAMA "Leonard Fleck has written a well-researched and important contribution to health care reform. His answer to the problem of just distribution of health care is some kind of ongoing societal conversation. What is needed to get that conversation up and running the author describes at length. Whether such an idea will materialize in American politics is yet to be seen."--Medicine, Health Care, and Philosophy About the Author Leonard M. Fleck is a Professor of Philosophy and Medical Ethics at Michigan State University.