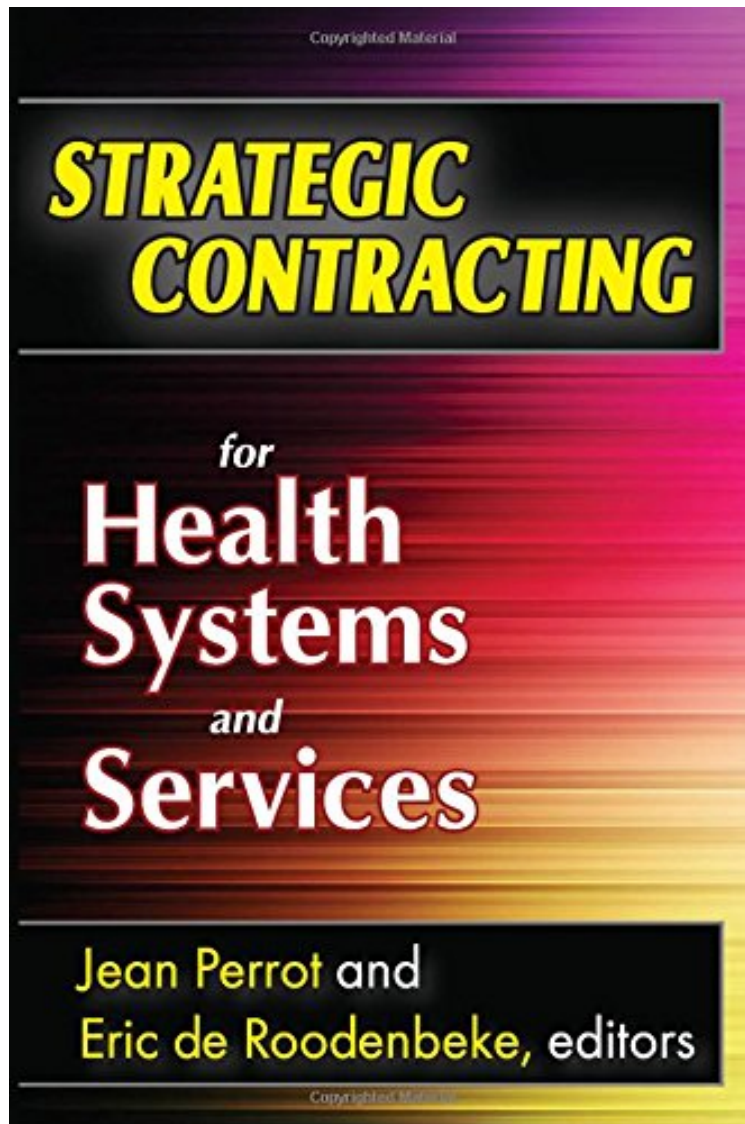


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# Strategic Contracting for Health Systems and Services

*Eric de Roodenbeke*

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Until the start of the new century, efforts to strengthen health systems focused solely on the public sector and health programs overseen by public bodies. The private sector was sidelined in certain countries and even banned in others.

At the same time, some private-sector stakeholders readily adapted themselves to this special situation so as to avoid becoming part of a structured health system. This volume notes profound changes in health care around the world in two areas. The stakeholders involved in the health sector are increasing in number and diversifying as a result of the development of the private sector. They are also responding to a process of democratization and decentralization. These developments have been paralleled by greater functional differentiation. Various stakeholders are increasingly specializing in particular areas of the health system: service delivery, procurement, management, financing, and regulation. The interdependence of health stakeholders becomes more evident along with the increased complexity of delivery systems as these respond to changing demand. There is a compelling need to forge relationships. Such relationships are in fact emerging in developed countries and, more recently, in developing countries. They may be informal, but are increasingly organized and structured.

“Strategic Contracting for Health Systems and Services considers vast changes in health care around the world in two areas, considering developments in the health sector that are leading to an increase in stakeholders in response to the development of the private sector, and a push for democratization and decentralization. This focus on the lasting impact of health stakeholders offers chapters of compelling argument for any college-level collection strong in health care services and analysis. Any interested in the future of the health care system MUST have this in-depth analysis.” —The Bookwatch  
About the Author Jean Perrot is at the World Health Organization in Geneva. His main areas of interest are the issues of health policy and health systems’ organization. During the last twenty years, he has carried out numerous missions in the developing countries. Eric de Roodenbeke is a health economist and a graduate from the French National School for Public Health. Before becoming the CEO of the International Hospital Federation in 2008, he worked at the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and in various hospitals.