New Book Ties Community Wellness To National Health

Faculty from the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences have published a book which provides a guide for interpreting how leaders, laws and innovation affect public health. The book also addresses the impact of poverty as a predictor of a nation's wellness. Population Health -- Management, Policy and Technology, First Edition attempts to make sense of a complex set of systems related to healthcare delivery.

Broad Topics Brought Into Focus

The American healthcare system is in a state of flux, and despite programs to raise awareness about its ongoing changes, it can be difficult to comprehend the big picture. The new book compiles theories, models and illustrations from 27 authors in public and private sectors, including academia and the government. Economic and social policies which affect healthcare will need to integrate a multitude of ideas like the ones discussed in the book for the benefit of current and upcoming generations.

In 14 chapters, a series of topics are presented to stimulate critical discussion. Some of the areas of focus are healthcare delivery models, standards and terminology, sociocultural models of health, public health policy, and chapters dedicated to issues that impact large numbers of citizens such as ageing and chronic disease. Technological topics include big data analytics, health record banks and health information exchange.

Poverty and Population Health

One of the most important predictors of health on a national level is poverty. According to senior executive editor Robert Esterhay, MD and the chair of the school's Department for Health Management and Systems Sciences, the book ties together the core requirements of the Affordable Care Act, the nation-wide goals of Healthy People 2020, and the work of Donald Berwick and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Three-Part Aim.

David Nash, MD, MBA is the dean of Thomas Jefferson University's School of Population Health. In the book's foreword, he writes: "Not only does the book serve as the Rosetta Stone in translating our current situation, but I believe Esterhay and his colleagues have given us a kind of roadmap."

Population Health -- Management, Policy and Technology is available on the Convergent Publishing website and through amazon.com. An electronic version will be released at the end of August.

Source: University of Louisville
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