

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

I decided to write a second edition of *Economics for Healthcare Managers* for four reasons. The main reason, of course, was that the world has changed. Economics has begun to engage new issues, and some concerns that seemed paramount in 2000 no longer command the same attention. For example, managed care merited a good deal of discussion in 2000. Today, in contrast, managed care is ubiquitous and familiar. It still merits attention, but our understanding of it has changed. An even more striking change has taken place in our understanding of quality. In 2000 the nation was still trying to absorb the messages of *To Err Is Human* (Institute of Medicine 2000); today, improving the quality of health and healthcare is a core responsibility of healthcare managers.

I also thought that additional topics needed to be covered. One topic was forecasting, which I treated only briefly in the first edition. The second edition devotes an entire chapter to forecasting, as this application of economics is important for managers. Another topic that merited a new chapter was the role of government. Government involvement in health and healthcare is an important issue for managers. In addition, this topic offers instructors an opportunity for lively, topical discussion that should prove to be a welcome addition to many classes.

The second edition remains firmly focused on the economics healthcare managers need to understand to be effective, but it updates the references and offers students a glimpse into contemporary research. Although many classic citations remain vital, economists have done a great deal of interesting work during the last decade.

Finally, teaching methods have changed. Case analysis has become increasingly common in economics, and the Internet is becoming an integral part of more and more classes. The second edition reflects these changes.

Every chapter includes one or more case studies and a variety of web-based resources for instructors. Additional learning resources are available to

instructors on this book's companion website, hosted by Health Administration Press. These include a test bank, chapter discussion questions and answers, PowerPoint lecture slides, additional reading material, and web links. For access information, e-mail [hapl@ache.org](mailto:hapl@ache.org).

## Reference

Institute of Medicine. 2000. *To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.