

Building a better delivery system: a new engineering/health care partnership

By Proctor P. Reid, W. Dale Compton, Jerome H. Grossman, National Academy of Engineering

Book overview

This book by the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine is intended to bridge the knowledge and awareness divide between health care professionals and their potential partners in systems engineering and related disciplines. The goal of this partnership is to transform the U.S. health care sector from an underperforming conglomerate of independent entities (individual practitioners, small group practices, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, community health centers) into a high-performance "system," in which every participating unit recognizes its dependence and influence on every other unit. Besides providing a framework and a plan of action for a systems approach to health care delivery, Building a Better Delivery System describes opportunities and challenges to harnessing the power of systems-engineering tools, information technologies, and complementary knowledge in social sciences, cognitive sciences, and business management to advance the delivery of safe, patient-centered, efficient, equitable health care in the United States.