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research

The Impact of China's Market Reforms on the Health of Chinese Citizens: Examining Two Puzzles

Despite sharp reductions in medical insurance coverage, rising medical care costs and unequal access, China has made dramatic progress in improving the health of its population since market reforms were launched. There was no deterioration in the health of the population as there had been in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Chinese villagers and migrants are generally positive about their health and their ability to deal with medical costs.

by Martin King WHYTE and Zhongxin SUN 1

Health Reform and *De Facto* Federalism in China

If articulated, federalism can constitute a ready-made institutional foundation for government purchasing of healthcare through conditional spending. China may also improve central enforcement by clarifying its scope. The extent of the central role in enforcement will always exist in tension with local prerogative. Transforming that tension into a strength will require the introduction of articulated reason and discourse.

by Christina S. HO 33

Turning Points in China's AIDS Response

The Chinese government initially rejected the possibility that AIDS could exist in communist China and blamed the victims themselves. However, the exposure of the epidemic in central China in 2000 caused by tainted blood donation changed everything. Various other internal and external forces contributed to increased sympathy and tolerance. China has come a long way in tackling its AIDS problem, but the battle is far from over.

by Joan KAUFMAN 63

Population Policy and Eugenic Theory: Implications of China's Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

It appears that in ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Chinese government wanted to be viewed as a leader in this field of human rights and believed that early ratification would promote that image. However, when China's initial report under the treaty is due, the Committee will want to know whether ratification has brought about meaningful reforms for people with disabilities in China.

by Carole J. PETERSEN 85

From Decentralised Developmental State Towards Authoritarian Regulatory State: A Case Study on Drug Safety Regulation in China

Regulatory reform of China's pharmaceutical sector is relatively advanced. The collapse of the "Interest of Community of Government, Enterprise and Shiye Unit" caused three crises in drug quality regulation: conflict of roles, information failure and lagging infrastructure. This fostered the rise of the regulatory regime in China's drug safety monitoring field.

by Peng LIU 110

comments and notes

Family Members' Informed Consent to Medical Treatment for Competent Patients in China

The right of competent patients' family members to make medical decisions on their behalf does not result from cultural factors. Rather, it serves as a tool to secure payment of medical expenses and to mitigate the risk of radical malpractice liability which could be better resolved through less costly alternatives such as expanding medical insurance coverage and improving the records of informed consent made by patients.

by DING Chunyan 139

China's Health Diplomacy in Africa

In recent years, Africa has regained a level of prominence in China's overall foreign policy strategy. Health diplomacy helps pave the way for Chinese oil companies to win mining rights for oil, platinum and other natural resources. However, a successful soft power strategy will need to consider public opinion and provide a means for connecting the health diplomacy with the larger goals.

by Jeremy YOUDE 151

Dilemmas of Access to Healthcare in China

China's State Council passed a landmark Health Care Reform Plan in January 2009. To a very large extent, it reflects an increased recognition that healthcare is a public service that cannot fully be subject to the dictates of the market economy. Many of the excesses in healthcare costs and costs of medications and treatment over the past ten years have been a direct result of privatisation and imposing market-based requirements on hospitals and physicians.

by Pitman B. POTTER 164

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To promote both academic and policy-oriented research on East Asian development, particularly the political, economic and social development of contemporary China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), and its growing economic integration with the world and the political and security implications for the region.