

A woman with dark hair, wearing a blue lab coat, is looking intently at a grid of brain MRI scans. The scans are displayed in a grid pattern, with some showing cross-sections of the brain. The background is dark, and the overall tone is professional and scientific.

Rethinking Healthcare Delivery: What Healthcare Systems in Europe and the U.S. Can Learn From One Another

ABOUT INFINITI

Infiniti Research is a leading provider of actionable market intelligence and advisory solutions that help global organizations in entering, competing, and capturing maximum market potential. Our experienced market researchers follow highly tailored and proven methodologies to support clients with succinct answers for business decisions in areas including Market Opportunity Assessment, Emerging Market Planning, Benchmarking, Value-Channel Analysis and Customer Segmentation. Our researchers have extensive experience in deep dive custom research and consulting assignments for over 100 Fortune 500 companies and numerous small and medium-sized companies across several industry verticals.

OUR CORE COMPETENCIES

Our core specialty lies in offering a complete range of competitive intelligence and research services and obtaining fresh market data through variety of primary research methods.

OUR VISION

We believe that the success of our clients will help us succeed. Our values reflect the thinking of the top management, which is to put our client's interests ahead of our own.

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INTRODUCTION

Healthcare delivery systems vary from country to country and it is difficult to agree on a single best type of care delivery model. The United States for instance has a combination of both privatized and public healthcare insurance and care delivery models. On the other hand, countries like Canada, Japan, and several other European countries resort to a universal healthcare model.



This means that all their citizens receive a basic level of coverage. Furthermore, the governments of these countries can choose to run the program in several ways. Each of these systems have their own advantages and disadvantages. Ever since the Trump government has taken force in the United States, one of its key focus has been to abolish Obamacare.



However, European countries like Germany and France which also had their elections in 2017, have agreed that they would retain their existing healthcare systems. This primarily because they believe that their healthcare models perform relatively better in terms of outcomes, life expectancy, and other critical indicators in comparison to resources consumed as a percentage of GDP. Countries like France and Germany are basing their delivery models on old cultures and established values that permit nearly universal coverage at reduced costs than those of the United States healthcare systems while achieving equal or better outcomes. Experts from Infiniti Research agree that cross-border learnings should be consumed in moderation, here they have highlighted some key findings on what European and United States healthcare systems can learn from one another.

CHANGING POPULATION PYRAMIDS



American and European countries are undergoing more or less the same healthcare issues relating to demographic shifts, chronic diseases, and rising costs due to the use of advanced medical technologies. The population pyramids on both the nations have taken on the classical 'pear shape' wherein larger segments of the population include middle-aged and younger individuals who contribute to the care and support of a smaller portion of the older population. However, this will soon transform into a situation where the remaining workforce will have to generate resources for children, retirees, and other non-working segments of the population.

The idea of solidarity is kept alive in the European context. People can generally afford to retire, receive healthcare benefits, and guaranteed pensions while poverty rates at old age are low when compared to the United States. Although this picture might change, and governments might have to kick in some fund raising for cost of care. Yet, such changes are not explicitly addressed in any European efforts at healthcare reform. In Germany, cutting back pensions or other social benefits is a no-go. While this social spending or redistribution of income represents the main pillar of the European society and its political system, this picture looks different in the United States.

SOLIDARITY IN HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Many European healthcare systems follow the principle of solidarity wherein when individuals' income and ability to pay for healthcare services are unequal, they carry out a social responsibility as citizens to redistribute resources. This redistribution is usually administered by the government. Most Europeans willingly accept this notion as it is deeply ingrained in their culture. In the United States, however, elected leaders are favoring a smaller government and believe in limited regulation of market forces. Here, only the wealthy have true access to wide choice in healthcare.

COMPARATIVE PARADOX

European countries generally pursue a strictly regulated ideological framework in healthcare that is largely based on solidarity, equality, and social responsibility. Once people have socialized into this framework, they can choose to utilize care as much and as freely as they want. The United States, on the other hand, represents a free market system and participants can choose from a fixed price formula. Here, one can buy insurance at various levels, pay copays and deductibles, understand the various options available, and they are forced to live in limited choices in a gated system.



CRISIS MANAGEMENT

European healthcare systems must be fully prepared for the deep impact of the changes in demographics. The United States has developed management capacity to confront similar challenges over the last 40 years. Although the medical workforce has only increased marginally, the number of medical administrators has increased multifold in the past couple of years. Furthermore, the salaries given to medical care professionals in the US are seen to be higher than that in Europe. It remains to be evaluated whether a further investment in health care management contributes to better outcomes as a result of coordinated care pathways. However, opportunities to learn exist and it will help healthcare providers to address common challenges before a crisis unfolds.

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