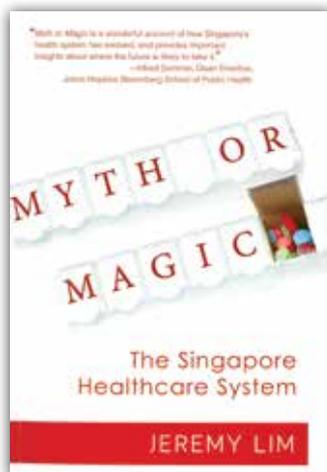


REVIEW



BREAKING DOWN THE SINGAPORE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

By Dr Noorul Fatha As'art

Title: *Myth or Magic: The Singapore Healthcare System*

Author: Dr Jeremy Lim

Publisher: Singapore: Select Books (2013)

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Price: \$32

Myth or Magic comes at a most serendipitous time in the history of Singaporean healthcare, not least because the Ministry of Health is currently undertaking a review of the system. Despite our small size as a nation, our healthcare system is a complex creature that defies easy categorisation, and trying to describe it to an outsider can be an uphill task. Dr Jeremy Lim has taken on this challenge and the result is a seminal book destined for a permanent place on the reading list of a healthcare policy class.

Dr Lim chronicles Singapore's healthcare journey in a systematic manner, deftly breaking down the different components into digestible sections while maintaining a balance between succinctness and detail. The book is no mere chronological recollection: Dr Lim weaves in

historical perspectives with sharp analysis, drawing upon his past experiences as a former insider to present his arguments cogently. Although he gives credit where it is due, he does not shy away from providing criticism, pointing out areas where he feels the authorities could have done better. Dr Lim also offers invaluable insight as to where the future of Singaporean healthcare is headed, and proposes ideas for improvement.

Issues of public policy can make for dry reading. However, this book is the exact opposite as it is suitably pitched for both the layman and the healthcare professional. Any person interested in gleaning lessons for healthcare policy, or to simply seek an understanding of Singaporean healthcare should definitely add this book to their collection. **SMA**

Healthcare in Singapore is supervised by the Ministry of Health of the Singapore Government. It largely consists of a government-run universal healthcare system with a significant private healthcare sector. In addition, financing of healthcare costs is done through a mixture of direct government subsidies, compulsory savings, national healthcare insurance, and cost sharing.