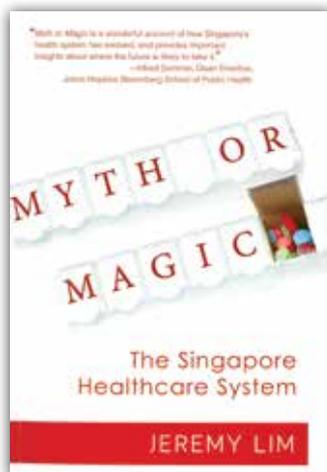# REVIEW

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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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 System in Singapore.

ACTU4625 Topics: health insurance. Yu BAI, Chaoran SHI, Xiaoteng LI,& Feifei LIU.

Background.

Singapore, an island country with population of 5.2 million, is well-known for its efficient and widely covered healthcare system. The early primary health care, after Singapore's independence in 1965, started with a mass-inoculation program against severe tropical epidemic diseases. In order to provide convenience to the out-patient attendances, the government extended the network of hospitalization, including general hospitals, satellite out-patient dispensaries a It delves into different aspects of the Singapore healthcare landscape, including pharmaceutical co… This book provides a comprehensive look at the political philosophy that has shaped Singapore's healthcare system over the last five decades, and the financing and delivery of healthcare in Singapore. It delves into different aspects of the Singapore healthcare landscape, including pharmaceutical cost management, medical tourism, doctors' remuneration, medical education, rules and regulations, workforce panning and health promotion. It suggests lessons that the Singapore healthcare story holds for healthcare policy makers and reformers and the challenges that the future holds. Singapore's healthcare system is designed to ensure that everyone has access to different levels of healthcare in a timely, cost-effective and seamless manner. MOH and its statutory boards are responsible for regulating Singapore's healthcare system. All Healthcare facilities such as hospitals, medical centres, community health centres, nursing homes, clinics (including dental clinics), and clinical laboratories (including x-ray laboratories) are required to apply for licence under the Private Hospitals & Medical Clinics (PHMC) Act/Regulations. All Healthcare facilities are also required t