

Book Reviews

The Trustee's Guide to Understanding Healthcare Antitrust Law Issues

Jonathan P. Tomes

Healthcare Financial Management Association, Westchester, IL, 1992, 74 pp., \$24.95 (paperback)

TODAY'S TRUSTEES MUST BE AWARE OF the rules and regulations that affect the operations for which they are directly and indirectly responsible. Jonathan P. Tomes's monograph on healthcare antitrust laws is a helpful resource for trustees of hospitals and other healthcare organizations.

Tomes's work can be useful for attorneys or others who wish to review or

become acquainted in some detail with antitrust law. However, it may be too detailed for someone who wants only a broad overview of antitrust.

The opening chapter briefly explores why antitrust has become an important issue for healthcare providers interested in potential mergers, acquisitions, or affiliations. Chapter 2 covers the history and background of antitrust law, reviewing important federal and state legislation in this area.

The rest of the book addresses various aspects of antitrust law as it affects healthcare organizations, including:

- Antitrust law and the healthcare industry
- Mergers, acquisitions, and affiliations
- Other arrangements among healthcare providers

- Access to facilities and organizations
- Pricing of healthcare goods
- Sanctions for antitrust violations

Although Tomes touches on state antitrust statutes, his expertise is in federal antitrust statutory and case law, a topic on which the work is helpful. But trustees should also make themselves aware of applicable laws enacted in states where their corporation does business.

The principles of federal antitrust law explained in the book will probably continue to apply should federal healthcare reform be enacted. However, for product market analyses, the full range of services offered by or through accountable health plans (e.g., integrated delivery networks, health maintenance organizations) might become the relevant product market rather than the product market for hospital services alone.

RESOURCE BRIEFS

A Health Challenge for the States: Achieving Full Benefits of Childhood Immunization

Phyllis Freeman, Kay Johnson, and Janice Babcock, McCormack Institute, University of Massachusetts, Boston, 1993, 75 pp., \$5 (paperback)

This paper explains the historic and modern roles of the federal and state governments and private medicine in immunization programs. It offers four goals for state advocates to significantly improve disease prevention: achieve an adequate supply of all doses; expand delivery system; develop "immunization registries," and notify families when immunizations are due; and increase awareness among families, policymakers, and communities. The paper suggests strategies for reaching these goals, describes successful state programs, and presents limitations of state policies and how states can effect national immunization policy changes.

(For copies, call Janice Babcock at 617-287-7372.)

Caring for Yourself When Caring for Others

Margot Hover, Twenty-third Publications, Mystic, CT, 1993, 80 pp., \$7.95 (paperback)

In a series of 25 vignettes, Margot Hover reflects on the day-to-day challenges persons face when they are caring for others. The author uses prayer, personal stories, and passages from Scripture to highlight the stresses, anxieties, dilemmas, and joys care givers commonly experience and to work through some of their implications.

Economics and Mental Health

Richard G. Frank and Willard G. Manning, Jr., eds., Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1992, 351 pp. (paperback)

A collection of 15 essays by 26 healthcare economists, this book explores economic issues related to mental healthcare from a number of perspectives. The opening chapter presents an overview of past and current research on the topic. Subsequent sections include articles on the supply of mental healthcare, the economic cost of mental illness, and the relationship between insurance and the demand for mental healthcare. The book's final four contributions explore various experiments in improving mental healthcare delivery and efficiency.

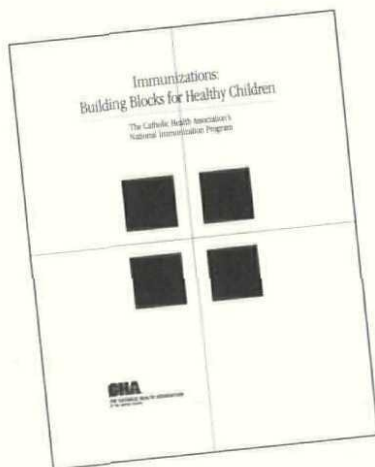
Perspectives on Life-threatening Illness for Allied Health Professionals

Leslie M. Thompson et al., eds., Haworth Press, Binghamton, NY, 1993, 193 pp., \$32.95 (hardcover), \$25.95 (paperback)

Contributors to this book provide a multidisciplinary perspective on caring for the terminally ill. Chapters in the opening section explore roles for allied

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BOOKS



Immunizations: Building Blocks for Healthy Children

75 pages/paper/8 1/2" x 11"/1992

Catalog No. 379, \$8.50

Immunizations: Building Blocks for Healthy Children

Immunization of children under age two has reached a crisis stage. Ten years ago almost all children in the United States were immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases, but today the United States has one of the lowest immunization rates in the Western Hemisphere—only Haiti and Bolivia have lower rates.

Immunizations: Building Blocks for Healthy Children is a 75-page how-to manual that will show a healthcare facility how to implement and carry out an immunization program alone or in collaboration with other facilities.

The manual explains how Catholic healthcare facilities can adapt strategies designed by others and how they can improve the vaccine-delivery system and break down the barriers to immunization.

Special sections focus on:

- Identifying the stumbling blocks and constructing a new approach
- Planning a campaign in your hospital and your community
- Developing an action plan for your immunization campaign

Included as well are eight case studies, an extensive appendix listing helpful resources, and an extensive bibliography.

Copies of *Immunizations: Building Blocks for Healthy Children* are available from the CHA Order Processing Department. Call 314-253-3458.

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 THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
 OF THE UNITED STATES

Hospital trustees in particular must be aware of how important antitrust law is for their organizations. After all, when representatives of the Department of Justice come knocking on the door to perform an antitrust investigation, they will not accept the excuse that trustees are unfamiliar with applicable antitrust laws and so failed to at least raise a red flag or two when their institution became involved in a questionable transaction.

Again, today's trustees must be more familiar than ever with the laws that govern the operations of the institutions they guide. Publications like this one can help in this endeavor.

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health professionals. Issues in training allied healthcare professionals are the focus of the second section, while the third section examines the values and ethics that should form the basis of care for the dying.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Harm We Do: A Catholic Doctor Confronts Church, Moral, and Medical Teaching, Joyce Poole, Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, CT, 1993

Personal Response Systems: An International Report of a New Home Care Service, Andrew S. Dibner, ed., Haworth Press, Binghamton, NY, 1993

Raising the Dead: A Doctor's Encounter with His Own Mortality, Richard Selzer, Whittle Books, Knoxville, TN, 1993