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Balancing The Goals Of Health Care Provision And Financing

[Martin Feldstein](#)

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Abstract

A desirable system for providing and financing health care should (1) prevent the deprivation of care because of a lack of funds; (2) allow care to reflect the different tastes of individual patients. This essay discusses the application of these goals and uses them to consider a reform of the system of health savings accounts (HSAs) that was enacted as part of the 2003 Medicare legislation and, separately, the challenge posed by the very expensive treatments for rare diseases that are becoming more frequently available.

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