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| Autore | Stanton Mark W |
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| Sommario/riassunto | This report examines strategies intended to affect health care costs and investigates whether or not they save money. AHRQ funded research has found that some approaches (specific employer contribution methods, competition among health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and behavioral managed care) save money, and others (cost sharing, flexible spending accounts, and hospital mergers) have mixed results. A unique contribution of AHRQ's research is its focus on the dynamic or interactive effects of cost containment strategies; i.e., estimating the likely effects of efforts in one sector on the rest of the system. The report also reviews some of the new research efforts underway. |

