

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778062803321
Titolo	Designing and implementing health care provider payment systems : : how-to manuals // edited by John C. Langenbrunner, Cheryl Cashin, and Sheila O'Dougherty
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : World Bank, , c2009
ISBN	1-282-11472-7 9786612114724 0-8213-7824-4
Descrizione fisica	xxii, 321 pages : illustrations ; ; 26 cm
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Disciplina	338.4/73621
Soggetti	Medical economics Medical fees
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; List of Contributors; Abbreviations; Glossary; Overview: What, How, and Who: An Introduction to Provider Payment Systems; Boxes; Tables; Figures; 1. Primary Health Care Per Capita Payment Systems; Screenshots; 2. Case-Based Hospital Payment Systems; 3. Hospital Global Budgeting; 4. A Primer on Contracting; 5. Health Management Information Systems: Linking Purchasers and Providers; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Strategic purchasing of health services involves a continuous search for the best ways to maximize health system performance by deciding which interventions should be purchased, from whom these should be purchased, and how to pay for them. In such an arrangement, the passive cashier is replaced by an intelligent purchaser that can focus scarce resources on existing and emerging priorities rather than continuing entrenched historical spending patterns. Having experimented with different ways of paying providers of health care services, countries increasingly want to know not only what to do when

