Traditional medicine and health care coverage: a reader for health administrators and practitioners.

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Abstract: To provide a better understanding of traditional, indigenous and unorthodox health care systems, this book examines the most common patterns of these systems and some of their local or regional variations. It suggests how health practitioners and administrators might best apply this information as they endeavor to improve health care coverage, particularly in the developing countries. It should improve understanding of why people accept or reject certain health care practices or why they use or do not use those health resources that are available. Health workers and administrators responsible for extending the coverage of health services should be assisted in developing a fruitful relationship with practitioners of traditional medicine who are already living and working among, and enjoying the confidence of, the local population. Articles on the systems and practices of traditional medicine, herbal medicines and herbal pharmacopoeias, and the organizational and legal aspects of traditional medicine are included. Profiles of traditional practices in each WHO region are also provided.

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