

Healthcare

It has become something of a convenience to refer to the whole endeavor as the "Health Industry."

This provides the illusion that it is in a general way all one thing, and that it turns out, on demand, a single, unambiguous product, which is health. Thus, health care has become the new name for medicine. Health-care delivery is what doctors now do, along with hospitals and other professionals who work with doctors, now known collectively as the health providers. The patients have become health consumers. ... the government has officially invented new institutions called Health Maintenance Organizations ... spreading across the country like post offices, ready to distribute in neat packages, as though from a huge newly stocked inventory, health.

Lewis Thomas, *The Lives of a Cell*