



Ethics and the Metaphysics of Medicine: Reflections on Health and Beneficence (Hardback)

By Kenneth Richman

MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2004. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 156 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Definitions of health and disease are of more than theoretical interest. Understanding what it means to be healthy has implications for choices in medical treatment, for ethically sound informed consent, and for accurate assessment of policies or programs. This deeper understanding can help us create more effective public policy for health and medicine. It is notable that such contentious legal initiatives as the Americans with Disability Act and the Patients Bill of Rights fail to define adequately the medical terms on which their effectiveness depends. In *Ethics and the Metaphysics of Medicine*, Kenneth Richman develops an embedded instrumentalist theory of health and applies it to practical problems in health care and medicine, addressing topics that range from the philosophy of science to knee surgery. Embedded instrumentalist theories hold that health is a match between one's goals and one's ability to reach those goals, and that the relevant goals may vary from individual to individual. This captures the normative implications of the term health while avoiding problematic relativism. Richman's embedded instrumentalism differs from other theories of health in...



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