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Rick J. Carlson is currently Clinical Professor of Policy Programs and Affiliate Professor, Department of Pharmacy at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. This position is a culmination of his involvement in a number of seminal events in health care in the last 35 years.

The first was the evolution of HMOs in the late '60s and early '70s. Mr. Carlson worked with Paul Ellwood, Jr., MD, and Interstudy, at the headwaters. Among other things, he was one of those responsible for coining the term "health maintenance organization (HMO)" and drafted the original HMO legislation. He continues to be a key analyst advisor and strategist to managed care organizations.

A second event was the onset of serious and deliberative efforts to limit the medicalization of untoward experience and hyperinflation in medical care. This work culminated in his book, The End of Medicine, published in 1975, which joined its voice with a small but lively chorus, including Ivan Illich with Medical Nemesis and Victor Fuchs with Who Shall Live?. Discussions launched by these works about the limits of medicine and the need for a broader and deeper understanding of the determinants of health other than medical care. Rick Carlson's book was the first shot across the bow of the modern medical care system written by an American with direct application to the US medical care system.

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