1.1 Introduction

Probably one of the most critical micro level issues where the principles of lean thinking can best be applied to healthcare is concerned with value stream mapping. To illustrate, this section provides three chapters that highlight this perspective.

Chapter 25 Value Stream Mapping in Lean Healthcare: A brief Introduction and Application by Dohan et al. serves to introduce the concept of value stream mapping.

Chapter 26 Using Value Stream Mapping to Improve Processes in a in a Urology Department by Gonzalez et al. illustrates an application of value stream mapping in the context of a urology department.

Chapter 27 A Technology Mediated Solution to Reduce Healthcare Disparities by Wickramasinghe et al. also explores the impact of adding value via a technology solution.

Although a relatively small section, these three chapters focus on the key topic of value stream mapping for healthcare and thus provide an in depth analysis on a critical aspect of lean thinking in healthcare contexts.