



Disaggregating Private Expenditure on Medical Care for Improved Public Policy

Presented by

Professor Dov Chernichovsky

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Venue: RB Scotton Room
2nd Floor, Building 75
Monash University, Clayton

Private expenditures on medical care are of public concern in all health systems. In a predominantly publicly funded system, this expenditure has the potential to undermine the *raison d'être* for public finance: to improve equity and to contain rising costs of medical care. In a predominantly privately funded system, this expenditure is of public concern because of the public interest for private expenditure to be an effective substitute for 'shortfalls' in public funding.

This seminar covers three interrelated research objectives: (a) how to articulate a set of principles that can guide a policy that attempts to optimize the equity and efficiency impact of a change in public spending, (b) how to select a justifiable econometric procedure to study household private expenditure, and (c) to propose an appropriate policy based on an analysis of five household expenditure surveys of about 500 households each that include specific patterns of household private expenditures on medical care in Israel.

Presenter

Dov Chernichovsky is a professor of health economics and policy at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. He is a Research Associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research in the USA, and a consultant to the World Bank. He heads the Economic and Interdisciplinary teams at the Taub Center for the Study of Social Policy in Israel, and manages the Negev Health Forum for health promotion in the southern region in Israel. He serves on the board of the Israeli Cancer Society, the Baxter Prize advisory board, the Association of the Advancement of Education, Israel, and on the editorial boards of several journals. Amongst his memberships in numerous commissions, Professor Chernichovsky has played key roles on behalf of the World Bank in the health system reform formulations in Romania, Russia and more recently in Tanzania, and Mexico. In Russia he helped formulate the health insurance legislation underlying the current Russian health system, He recently completed a reform proposal for the U.S.A. with a team from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). His current work is focused on health systems finance.