

Centre for Health Economics

Seminar Series

'Do Performance Targets Matter? A Comparison of English and Welsh National Health Priorities'

Presented by

Dr Katharina Hauck

Date: Wednesday 16th May 2007
Time: 1:00-2:00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
2nd Floor, Building 75
Monash University
Clayton, 3800



National priorities and performance management regimes in the National Health Services of England and Wales diverged following devolution, most notably with respect to the use of waiting time targets, which have been progressively strengthened in England but were abandoned in Wales in the immediate post-devolution period. We analyse routine data collected over a six-year period from three English and one Welsh hospital trust close to the English-Welsh border to ascertain whether: (a) there is evidence of differential performance over time that relates to the country where the hospital is located; (b) within each hospital, there is evidence that English and Welsh patients faced different waiting times. Over the period the English hospitals recorded increased levels of activity, undertook proportionately more day case activity, and mortality rates fell. Activity levels remained constant in Wales, the proportion of day case activity fell, proportionately more non-elective patients were admitted, and mortality rates rose. There is partial evidence that English patients faced lower waiting times than their Welsh counterparts and were more likely to be admitted within a target waiting period. The stronger performance management regime operating in England appears to have contributed to higher levels of performance in the English hospitals over the period.

Presenter

Dr Katharina Hauck is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Economics, Monash University. Katharina's main research interest lies in the quantitative analysis of important issues in health policy. Research is principally in the area of performance measurement of health care organizations and inequalities in health. Current research continues this line of work, with projects on the quality of hospital care and the economics of obesity. Katharina is a Chief Investigator on a \$230,000 ARC Discovery grant looking at the economics of obesity. Her previous appointments were at the Centre for Health Economics, University of York (UK), and at the World Health Organization in Geneva (Switzerland). Katharina has a PhD in Economics (University of York), MSc in Health Economics (University of York), and a first degree in Economics (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany).

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