



Will additional spending reduce elective surgery waiting times? A multilevel model of demand and supply.

Presented by

Dr Anurag Sharma

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2nd Floor, Building 75
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Australian state and federal governments have recently proposed additional funding to reduce waiting times for elective surgery patients in public hospitals. The main objective of this seminar is to construct an econometric model of the demand and supply of elective surgery in public hospitals capable of estimating the impact of government funding initiatives on waiting time. Multilevel modelling is used to estimate the determinants of patient waiting time for the main diagnostic categories of elective surgery patients in Victoria taking account of both demand and supply factors. Multilevel modelling enables us to take advantage of individual patient level data (waiting time, quality of care, travel time, socio-economic status, access to GP and specialists, PHI coverage, age, access to private care) and hospital level data (medical and surgical costs of treatment, throughput target, available bed capacity). While there is variation across the diagnostic groups, in general the results show that a policy of increasing throughput targets or increasing available beds reduces waiting times.

Presenter

Dr Anurag Sharma joined the Centre for Health Economics as a Research Fellow in December 2005. He is also an external affiliate to Health Econometrics and Data Group (HEDG), University of York and Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis (CAMA), ANU. His previous appointments were at the Australian National University, Canberra and University of New South Wales at ADFA, Canberra. Anurag has worked on several projects, most prominent being "Poverty Traps, Nutrition, Health Status and Anti-Poverty Interventions in Rural India" funded by DFID, UK and "International exchanges of knowledge, temporary skilled labour movements, and Australia's economic growth" funded by Australia Research Council. Anurag's main research interests include CGE modelling and related parametric and non-parametric econometric analysis to investigate relevant policy issues. At CHE, he is working on the project titled "Modelling the economics of the Australian health care system for policy analysis" funded by NHMRC. Currently he is focussing on the impact of Victorian Case Mix funding regime on allocation of resources across hospitals, waiting time management and travel time quality trade-offs.