

Abstract of parallel session: 9

Title: Regional Health Care Data in the federated health care policy system of Switzerland – a bright or dooming future?

Presenting Author(s): Ulrich Wagner, Michael Lindner¹

Institutes: 1) Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Health Services, Neuchâtel

Authors (s): Ulrich Wagner, Michael Lindner

Abstract no: 92

Presentation language: English

Problem description

The Swiss discussion about rising health care costs (78 bn in 2015) has from a governance perspective the following limitations:

- Federal government is held responsible for rising health care costs, but is limited to regulate sickness funds (with minor exceptions).
- A narrowed focus in the public debate on mandatory health insurance, which finances only 35% of total health care costs (28bn).
- A high percentage of out-of-pocket payments (28%, 22bn), which is not fully understood in its effects.
- The political responsibility of the Cantons for health care services (as understood not only in the financing (18%) but in the provider's perspective) is only met in respect to hospital data.
- A standardized dataset which corresponds with these responsibilities on the regional level is missing.
- This problem is underestimated, although these datasets would allow an appropriate data-based governance on the cantonal level, to benchmark and thus foster the traditional strength of Switzerland to generate innovation out of the decentralized structure.

Research questions:

1. Which characteristics should be identifiable with potential instruments and methodologies (datasets) to match the managerial respectively political responsibilities?
2. Are already instruments or methodologies in use and in which extent do they match the beforehand identified criteria?

Findings:

The dataset "costs and financing of the health care systems", an application of the international "system of health accounts" incorporates many of the necessary characteristics, but is not yet regionalized. However, there is an exception in the canton of Vaud (VD) and the interest for regional health accounts seems to increase in other Cantons (BS, GE).

Discussion:

The development of cantonal health accounts is promising, but needs coordination to accentuate their full potential. The FSO could play a helpful role to maintain intercantonal comparability, just like the OECD does on the international level.

(Max 2000 characters, incl. spaces):

Please use this format to finalize your abstract (or send in your submitted abstract). Please delete the example text above and add your own title, author (s), institute, etc. of the abstract. You can use a maximum of 2000 characters and we would like to ask you to send in your abstract as 1 A4. If your submitted abstract contained a figure/graph, you can add a second A4 to include this figure/graph.