



Corvinus Health Policy and Health Economics Conference Series 2011/3

Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment Research Centre, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary
Maastricht University, The Netherlands

OUT-OF-POCKET PAYMENTS AND HEALTH CARE REFORMS IN EUROPE



ASSPRO CEE 2007

Collaborative Focused Research Project
FP7-SSH-2007 Grant Agreement No.: 217431

Programme



Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment Research Centre, Hungary
Maastricht University, The Netherlands

OUT-OF-POCKET PAYMENTS AND HEALTH CARE REFORMS IN EUROPE

Corvinus University of Budapest

**17th May 2011
12.30 – 18.00**

**Room 2001
Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, Fővám tér 8.**



Background

During the time of the economic crisis, the issue of patient payments - defined as direct payments of the population for health care services - is occupying more and more policy discussion worldwide.

The types of patient payments are rather diverse (starting from official co-payments for health care services to informal payments of the population), and raise several challenging and relevant questions in health policy, which should be the topic of recent and further research such as:

Who are already paying for health care services, how much, in what form, and how these spending are distributed among different social-economic groups;

Who should pay, who are willing to pay, who are able to pay for health care services and how much;

What is the connection between formal and informal payments – are they substitute or complementary;

What is the attitude of the population towards patient payments, and how to implement patient payments policies acceptable for the public;

Whether patient payments are efficient tool to control public spending on health;

What do we know about their effect on efficiency, equity and quality of the health care system?

The conference is the part of a collaborative research project ASSPRO CEE 2007 (Full title: Assessment of patient payment policies and projection of their efficiency, equity and quality effects: The case of Central and Eastern Europe) co-funded by the European Commission under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (GA no. 217431).

Involved Project Partners are: Maastricht University, The Netherlands; Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment Research Centre, Hungary; Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria; Public Enterprise "MTVC" (training, research and development centre), Lithuania; Uniwersytet Jagiellonski Collegium Medicum, Poland; Scoala Nationala de Sanatate Publica, Romania; School of Public Health, Ukraine.

So far, in the first round of the research focus group discussions with health care consumers and providers, and in-depth interviews with health policy makers and health insurance representatives were carried out on the attitude towards patient payments in the six partner countries during the summer of 2009. After, quantitative data were collected on the past use/payments and willingness to pay of the population for health care services with the sample size of 1000 respondents per country. During the conference project partners will present new results from the household survey.



Programme

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch, informal discussion, refreshment

13:30 – 14:00 Welcoming addresses

Prof. László GULÁCSI - Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Prof. László TRAUTMANN - Dean of Faculty of Economics; Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Prof. Wim GROOT – Maastricht University, the Netherlands

María del Pilar GONZÁLEZ PANTALEÓN – Project Officer

14:00 – 14:45 **SESSION 1: Health care reforms in Europe**

Chaired by: Prof. László GULÁCSI - Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

“Trends in out-of-pocket expenditure in the European Union”
Bernd RECHEL – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

“Quality improvement and cost containment in the Dutch health insurance system” Prof. Wim GROOT – Maastricht University, the Netherlands

14:45 – 15:00 Coffee/tea

15:00 – 15:45 **SESSION 2: Informal patient payments**

Chaired by: Prof. Wim GROOT – Maastricht University, the Netherlands

“Fighting fraud in Europe: the challenges”
Paul VINCKE - European Healthcare Fraud and Corruption Network

“Informal payments in health care. Polish perspective and experiences”
Prof. Stanisława GOLINOWSKA – Uniwersytet Jagiellonski Collegium Medicum, Poland

15:45 – 16:45 **SESSION 3: Informal patient payments and health care consumers**

Chaired by: Milena PAVLOVA – Maastricht University, the Netherlands

“Public attitudes towards informal patient payments in six CEE countries”
Tetiana STEPURKO – School of Public Health, Ukraine

"Who is willing and already paying? Hungarian results on willingness to pay and informal payments for health care services"

Petra BAJI – Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

"Paying formally or informally? Eliciting preferences for physician services in Ukraine using discrete choice experiment "

Andriy DANYLIV – School of Public Health, Ukraine

16:45 – 17:00 Coffee/tea

17:00 – 17:45 SESSION 4: Health care reforms in Hungary

Chaired by: Prof. Imre BONCZ - University of Pécs, Institute for Health Insurance, Hungary

"The failed attempt to introduce copayments in Hungary"

Prof. Péter MIHÁLYI – University of Pannonia, Central European University, Hungary

"Health care reforms in Hungary: past experiences, current situation and plans for the future"

Prof. Imre BONCZ - University of Pécs, Institute for Health Insurance, Hungary

17:45 – 17:50 Closing: Prof. László GULÁCSI

Suggested readings from project publications

Marzena Tambor, Milena Pavlova, Piotr Woch and Wim Groot: Diversity and dynamics of patient cost-sharing for physicians' and hospital services in the 27 European Union countries. *European Journal of Public Health*, 2010 Sep 30. [Epub ahead of print].

Tetiana Stepurko, Milena Pavlova, Irena Gryga and Wim Groot: Empirical studies on informal patient payments for health care services: A systematic and critical review of research methods and instruments. *BMC Health Services Research*, 2010; 10:273.

Olga Skriabikova, Milena Pavlova and Wim Groot: Empirical models of demand for out-patient physician services and their relevance to the assessment of patient payment policies: a critical review of the literature. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2010; 7(6):2708-2725.

Vladimir S. Gordeev, Milena Pavlova and Wim Groot: Two decades of reforms. Appraisal of the financial reforms in the Russian public healthcare sector. *Health Policy*, 2010 Sep 15. [Epub ahead of print]

Elka Atanasova, Milena Pavlova, Robert Velickovski, Bogomil Nikov, Emanuela Moutafova, and Wim Groot : What have 10 years of health insurance reforms brought about in Bulgaria? Re-appraising the Health Insurance Act of 1998. *Health Policy*, 2011 Jan 6. [Epub ahead of print]

Petra Baji, Milena Pavlova, László Gulácsi, and Wim Groot User fees for public health care services in Hungary: Expectations, experience, and acceptability from the perspectives of different stakeholders. *Health Policy*, 2011; forthcoming.