



WEBINAR

On the dynamics of patient migration flows: Is efficiency performance explaining inflows for neighboring hospitals? An application to the Ecuadorian healthcare system

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Live presentation on: Google Meet

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze whether higher efficiency performance of Ecuadorian hospitals attracts larger inflows of interregional patients to a given hospital and the existence of spatial dependence in terms of larger inflows of patients for neighboring hospitals in the region. We develop a novel two-stage approach. In the first stage, we use conditional order-m estimations to obtain robust efficiency values for each hospital. In the second stage, we use a spatial Durbin interaction model to estimate the effect of hospital efficiency on patient migration flows and disentangle the spillover effects in the migration dyad. The results show a positive effect of specialized hospitals' efficiency in attracting patients from other regions. In addition, patient inflows present spillover effects not just on neighboring hospitals in the same region but also from hospitals in regions neighboring the origin. Policy implications refer mostly to well-planned and delivered decision-making strategies. Negative shocks affecting specialized hospitals could imply an adverse effect on the flow of patients to the whole region, affecting the regional public healthcare performance and potential welfare gains. Conversely, more resources could be directed to less-developed regions to incentivize competition.