

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2019

Taking a tumble: An empirical analysis of falls and health care utilisation among older people

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Presenter: Professor Brenda Gannon
Date: Wednesday 1 May 2019
Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm
Venue: Room H.921 Caulfield campus



Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to examine the association between falls and health care utilisation among older Europeans. Using data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), three utilisation measures are constructed: medical professional contact, general practitioner contact and hospital nights. Statistical panel models utilising correlated random effects are employed to accommodate the individual level unobserved heterogeneity. Results from dynamic and hurdle models indicate that falls are associated with increased health care utilisation; at least 0.6 more general practitioner contacts and up to 1.8 more medical professional contacts and 2.7 more hospital nights. Specifically, associations vary according to acuteness of the health care type and fall recurrence. Models generally confirm theoretical predictions of the human capital approach to health care demand and motivate the importance of fall prevention schemes among older adults.

Presenter

Professor Brenda Gannon is a Professor and Director of Research in the School of Economics and Affiliate Professor at the Centre for the Business and Economics of Health, The University of Queensland. Professor Gannon is an international expert in the field of Economics of Ageing and Health, and health econometrics and has won over \$26 million, as chief investigator, in collaborative research income with economics, medicine and social science with academia and industry. She has worked in Economics of Ageing since 2006, building capacity among post-doctoral researchers and post graduate students. She supervises a number of PhD students in Economics of Ageing on topics of physical activity and cognition, health shocks and health care utilization, and consumer directed care and home care. She has worked extensively on interdisciplinary research with gerontologists, clinicians and methodologists.

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