



Quality gains and losses from health care regionalization: Evidence from maternity clinic closures in Sweden

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2016

Presented by: Assistant Professor Daniel Avdic
University of Duisburg-Essen
Date: Wednesday 10th February, 2016
Time: 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Centre for Health Economics



Abstract:

Increased concentration of health care resources creates a hypothetical quality trade-off between increased productivity and decreased access. We study how the consolidation of the Swedish inpatient care sector in the 1990s affected the quality of maternal care received by mothers and infants by using register-based micro data on all births in Sweden over two decades. To account for endogenous sorting from selective referrals we exploit closures of maternal clinics as plausibly exogenous variation in distance to and case volume in nearby hospitals. We find that mothers who lived in areas where maternity clinics were closed before they gave birth experienced significantly higher risks of obstetric trauma during delivery. This effect is more pronounced for women with longer distances to travel and at hospitals with higher case volume increases. Inference does not appear to be driven by case-mix changes in the patient population in closed catchment areas.

Presenter:

Daniel Avdic is an assistant professor (Juniorprofessor) of Empirical Health Economics at the University of Duisburg-Essen and the head of the junior research group EACH at the health economics research center CINCH. He studied economics, statistics and economic history at Uppsala University in Sweden and worked at the Institute for Futures Studies in Stockholm and the Institute for the Evaluation of Labor Market and Education Policy (IFAU) in Uppsala before receiving his PhD in Economics from Uppsala University in 2014. His research interests are focused in the field of empirical health economics, especially on the efficiency of health care organization, individual health behaviors and the causes and consequences of socioeconomic health disparities.

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