Financial catastrophe, treatment discontinuation and death associated with surgically operable cancer in South-East Asia: results from the ACTION Study

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2016

Presented by: Prof Stephen Jan, University of Sydney
Date: Wednesday 4th May
Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Centre for Health Economics
Level 2, 15 Innovation Walk

Abstract:
The potential economic burden and barrier to care posed by the out-of-pocket costs of treatment presents challenges to health systems in Asia in addressing the growing burden of cancer, particularly in its poorest populations. Individuals diagnosed with cancer and lacking financial protection from such costs often face the tragic choice of either financial ruin for their families or having to abandon treatment. The ACTION (Asean CoTs In ONcology) study is a prospective longitudinal study examining the economic impact of cancer on households in eight countries in ASEAN (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand Vietnam). The aim is to assess the extent to which 4500 consecutively recruited individuals with surgically operable cancer experienced financially catastrophic out-of-pocket costs, the discontinuation of treatment or death. The findings highlight the extent and nature of the burden of cancer on patients and households, the extent to which the prospect of such costs influence treatment outcomes and ultimately seek to inform governments about the rollout programs to achieve universal coverage in Asia.

Presenter:
Stephen Jan is Head of the Health Economics and Process Evaluation program at the George Institute for Global Health, and Professor of Health Economics at the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney. He is also an Associate at both the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, and is a Chief Investigator in the NHMRC Australian Partnership Prevention Centre. He has been involved in numerous studies in Australia, Asia and many low and middle income countries and has interests in health financing, the household economic burden of chronic disease, the economics of prevention, Indigenous health and Institutionalist economics.

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