

The logo for ESHCRU, consisting of the letters 'ESHCRU' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a solid black rectangular background.

Economics of
Social and Health Care
Research Unit

Work programme 2013-2015

ESHCRU's programme of research addresses three aspects of social and health care systems:

- How services can be financed in a fair and efficient way
- The best ways of organising the whole care and support system and
- How we can measure whether services provided are high quality and make the best use of public funds

Funding and resource flows in the care system

This theme explores the optimisation of arrangements for raising funds and for distributing health and social care resources across services and individuals, so that the needs of the population are met equitably and efficiently

Projects

Understanding financial mechanisms for integrating funds for health and social care

Understanding factors linked to the use of health and social care services

- Associations between need for and receipt of care among older people
- Local variations in social care service use
- Coordination of local health and social care provision

The relation between unpaid care and formal health and social care

- Factors influencing informal care supply
- Complementarity and substitutability between unpaid and formal care
- Financial and wellbeing implications of providing care for unpaid carers

Modelling of patterns of health and social care funding and resource flows

- Costs and outcomes of alternative funding arrangements
- Implications of alternative funding constraints on the coverage of social care services

Health care expenditures, age, morbidity and proximity to death

Market analysis and system management

This theme is about understanding which type of market for health and social care services – from highly regulated internal markets to fully decentralised market models – best achieves strategic goals

Projects

The effects of market structure on quality and outcomes

- Effects of market structure and ownership on social care quality and outcomes
- Hospital quality competition under fixed prices
- GP competition and quality

The effects of ownership and organisation on quality and outcomes

Entry and exit in the care markets: An analysis of supply side dynamics

Substitution between health and social care

- What is the substitution between health and formal social care?
- Does the availability of social care reduce delayed discharge?

Quality measurement and productivity and efficiency analysis

This theme considers how we measure what is being delivered for the money spent on health and social care

Projects

Measuring variations in costs following hip fracture

Social care productivity

Higher quality primary care for people with dementia: the effects on hospital admissions

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