



ACERH

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON HEALTH

Seminar Invitation:

Comparing quality of care in public and private hospitals

Dr Mai Pham, Research School of Economics, ANU
Professor Jim Butler, ACERH (ANU)

Thursday, 12 May 2011

12noon – 1pm

Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre
Building 62a, Eggleston Road
The Australian National University, Canberra

The Speakers

Mai Pham is an Associate Lecturer in the Research School of Economics at ANU. She was awarded her PhD degree at ANU in 2009. The title of her thesis is "Performance of Australian public and private hospitals". Jim Butler holds a PhD in economics from the University of Queensland and is Director of ACERH.

Abstract

Using linked mortality and hospital morbidity data from Western Australia over a 10-year period (1995-2004), this paper provides an empirical assessment of the relative performance of WA public and private hospitals in terms of quality of care reflected by hospital adverse events and mortality. Four measures of the quality of care are used: adverse events for patients admitted with any illness; in-hospital mortality for AMI patients; in-hospital mortality for patients admitted with diagnoses other than cardiac disease; and 30 day post-discharge mortality for all patients. The examination of more than one quality indicator aims to reduce possible bias in drawing a conclusion about hospital relative performance. Multilevel logistic regression models are used to undertake the analysis. The results suggest that private hospitals perform better than public hospitals if 30-day post-discharge mortality is used as a performance indicator. However, public hospitals' performance is superior if adverse events and non-cardiac non-stroke in-hospital mortality are used as performance indicators. The results for in-hospital AMI mortality indicate no significant difference in performance between the two ownership types. Although it is common for public hospitals to be criticised for sub-standard performance, results from this study emphasize that, holding other factors constant, public hospital performance is not always inferior compared with private hospitals. On some indicators, their performance appears to be the same or better than their private counterparts.

Parking

A campus map for ANU can viewed on the University's web site (<http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/>). Visitors to the campus are advised to take a taxi to the venue if possible. The closest Pay Parking is at University House (pay at the meter in the quadrangle). Access to the Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre is by direct entry into Building 62a off Eggleston Road.

For enquiries about this seminar contact Jaimee Bell (ACERH@anu.edu.au or +61 2 6125 3688).