



ACERH

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON HEALTH

SEMINAR/OCCASIONAL SERIES

Thursday, 20th November 2008, 1:00pm

Room 34

3rd floor, Mayne Medical School Building
Herston Road, Herston

Continuity of care in a publicly funded dental programme – do the dollars make sense?

Professor Stephen Birch

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ABSTRACT

Continuity of care in the form of regular dental visits is often promoted as a means of reducing future needs use and hence costs of dental care. In this paper we evaluate the effects of continuity of care in dentistry in the population of First Nations (aboriginal) people. Services for this population are provided free at the point of delivery under the Federally funded 'Non Insured Health Benefits programme'. We analyse service utilisation patterns over an 8 year period in terms of the frequency of attendance, gaps in attendance and the mix of services used.

THE SPEAKER

Stephen Birch is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, a member of The Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis and the McMaster Institute for Environment and Health at McMaster University. He also holds a part time Chair in Health Economics at the University of Manchester, UK, along with honorary appointments at the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia and the University of Cape Town, South Africa. His extensive background in the evaluation of models for the funding and delivery of health care include the development of needs-based approaches to health care resource allocation, the evaluation of alternative delivery modalities for primary care in Ontario and the analysis of alternate payments for the provision of primary dental care. His work on needs-based funding models has been used in the development of funding formulae in many jurisdictions in Canada and he served as consultant on the implementation of the population-based approach to funding health care services in Saskatchewan in the early 1990s - the first application of this approach in Canada. He authored the report on principles and prospects for physician payment reform (The "Paying the Piper" report) for the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health and served on the Task Force formed to develop physician reform policies arising from the report (The Kilshaw Committee). He was a consultant to the Barer-Stoddart report on physician human resources providing expertise on international experiences with physician human resources planning and management. He served on the Methodology Sub Committee for the George Committee concerned with physician human resources policy in Ontario. He has served as a consultant with WHO and the World Bank on health human resource policies and was a co-investigator on the Canadian Nursing Sector Study on human resources planning. His

main research interests are in economics of health care systems with particular emphasis on equity, resource allocation and alternative delivery models. He has over 160 publications in peer reviewed journals and is Senior Editor for Social Science and Medicine. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network, a past council member of Ontario's Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council, and previously served on the Board of the Hamilton District Health Council.

For enquiries about this seminar contact Ms Robyn Clapshaw (r.clapshaw@uq.edu.au; 3365 5560) or Professor Luke Connelly (l.connelly@uq.edu.au; 3346 4838)
