Welcome to this month's #HEJC. For links to the paper and some possible discussion points visit http://t.co/WxG6VIE8

Who's going to kick things off? #hejc

Pretty sound paper - surprised by the lack of moral hazard. May be due to patient/physician-initiated split #HEJC

Still reading the paper... are there any limit on how much time GPs may spend in a consultation?

Doesn't say as far as I can tell? #hejc

Understandable assumption but I don't think GP contacts can be split into patient- and physician-initiated in this way #HEJC

Do you think they could identify moral hazard? (as opposed to sid) #hejc
ChrisSampson87: I think there is probably moral hazard mixed up in the SID results... difficult to separate though obviously #HEJC
Mon Nov 5 12:13:56 PST 2012

UnhealthyEcon: Sorry to be missing #hejc - clashes with my weekly German lessons.
Mon Nov 5 12:14:22 PST 2012

siwatson: @ChrisSampson87 #hejc I'm not sure I follow the logic. Old people higher costs -> old people less moral hazard.
Mon Nov 5 12:14:35 PST 2012

siwatson: @hoiyanadama @ChrisSampson87 #hejc They use age to identify moral hazard and chronic disease for SID but age correlated with chronic disease
Mon Nov 5 12:17:55 PST 2012

ChrisSampson87: interesting use of chronic conditions as proxy for less information asymmetry - any evidence to support this? #HEJC
Mon Nov 5 12:19:58 PST 2012

hoiyanadama: #hejc I think it might be better to compare the before after by each of the four chronic conditions rather than use them as comobid measure
Mon Nov 5 12:21:28 PST 2012

siwatson: @hoiyanadama #hejc that is the DID estimator no?
Mon Nov 5 12:23:02 PST 2012

hoiyanadama: @ChrisSampson87 #HEJC I guess they used them as control variables. But if they have all the ICPC codes may be they should use the full set.
Mon Nov 5 12:23:19 PST 2012

ChrisSampson87: @hoiyanadama I wasn't entirely sure about why they chose those either #HEJC
Mon Nov 5 12:24:37 PST 2012

siwatson: @ChrisSampson87 @hoiyanadama No chronic diseases group was maybe larger and maybe had higher variation -> smaller SEs -> significance? #hejc
Mon Nov 5 12:26:27 PST 2012

hoiyanadama: @siwatson #HEJC Thanks... that is Table VII. Got there now!
Mon Nov 5 12:26:27 PST 2012

siwatson: #hejc I would like to see some descriptive statistics of the data.
Mon Nov 5 12:27:06 PST 2012

siwatson: #hejc I am surprised that the effect sizes are the same at 1 and 2 years
Mon Nov 5 12:32:07 PST 2012

KBloor: #hejc sorry to be quiet I am at choir practice but watching. Interestingly small response to abolishing user charges. Were the insured rich?
Mon Nov 5 12:35:01 PST 2012
Privately insured patients might have held off seeing GPs in 2005 knowing that in 2006 it would be free.

except the over 65s, maybe more price sensitive.

Not really. They had only to earn over 33k euros to disqualify for social insurance.

The socially insured had to have income < EUR 33,000

I think the apparent moral hazard of over-65s isn’t investigated enough

Wonder if the number of diagnoses of diseases that require more follow up visits had increased.

I’m not sure they justify the link enough although that could be study in itself

Agreed. Could be interesting to see whether GPs had more/less unique visitors as opposed to just consultations overall

How does the new scheme affected the GPs’ finances? Did they have transitional arrangements like they did for the GMS contract in UK?

Very true. GPs can expand the number of patients needing followups as well as followups per head.

also they had capitation after change so may be incentivised to have more unique patients and fewer follow ups

Wish the authors are here to answer my (v confused) Qs. -_-"

For SID should they be analysing visits per practice/GP rather than per patient?
siwatson: @ChrisSampson87 #hejc I think the key to doing that would be to see if they were 'necessary' visits  
Mon Nov 5 12:54:24 PST 2012

hoiyanadama: @siwatson #hejc I wonder what mechanisms the practices can use to attract more patients. Hmm...  
Mon Nov 5 12:54:46 PST 2012

siwatson: @ChrisSampson87 #hejc Authors make a good point that the real thing here that needs to be looked at is actual patient health changes  
Mon Nov 5 12:55:04 PST 2012

hoiyanadama: #hejc FWIW the GPs now have to see the previously socially insured patients at least 3 times a year to make the same amount of money as b4.  
Mon Nov 5 12:55:41 PST 2012

hoiyanadama: #hejc Whereas for GPs to have previously privately patients sign up with them is a pure gain till these patients turn up for the 4th visit.  
Mon Nov 5 12:57:01 PST 2012

siwatson: @hoiyanadama #hejc There appears to be slight increase in social use but nothing like 3x. Maybe suggests mosts consultations are necessary.  
Mon Nov 5 12:57:28 PST 2012

ChrisSampson87: @siwatson @hoiyanadama but any increase due to moral hazard or SID is limited by the fixed number of GPs and patients #HEJC  
Mon Nov 5 12:59:28 PST 2012

ChrisSampson87: Couldn't the privately insured substitute other health care visits for GP visits as a result of the changes? #HEJC  
Mon Nov 5 12:59:39 PST 2012

siwatson: @ChrisSampson87 #hejc GPs are gatekeepers to secondary care  
Mon Nov 5 13:00:26 PST 2012

ChrisSampson87: @siwatson even for those with chronic conditions? And the over-65s? #HEJC  
Mon Nov 5 13:01:16 PST 2012

siwatson: @ChrisSampson87 #hejc that's what the paper says. Or else their mechanism for identifying SID could be flawed.  
Mon Nov 5 13:01:57 PST 2012

hoiyanadama: #hejc Wonder if the length of consultation had fallen. At 9 euro each I think GPs wouldn't want to spend more than 10 mins per visit.  
Mon Nov 5 13:02:14 PST 2012

aheblog: That's all for #HEJC this month. Thanks for taking part. A transcript will be available shortly at http://t.co/WxG6VIE8  
Mon Nov 5 13:02:43 PST 2012

siwatson: @hoiyanadama #hejc someone should follow up and look at quality and health outcomes since that is the most important. SID can be positive.
siwatson

Thanks #hejc - see you next time. Now, back to marking econometrics worksheets...

Mon Nov 5 13:04:39 PST 2012

hoiyanadama

@siwatson #hejc Totally agree.

Mon Nov 5 13:06:37 PST 2012

hoiyanadama

#hejc Interesting paper and great data set. Looking for more next month!

Mon Nov 5 13:07:00 PST 2012