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The effect of healthcare policy in Kazakhstan on utilization rate of medical care

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The paper provides estimates of the utilization rates of inpatient and outpatient care in Kazakhstan. In 2013 the share of inpatient care in Kazakhstan constituted 51 percent, whereas in OECD that constituted 34 percent. The goal is to bring the share of inpatient care down to 38 percent by 2030. Lower funding of primary healthcare is one of the reasons for high share of emergency hospitalization and, as a result, inpatient care. In 2016 the share of primary healthcare financing in state-guaranteed free medical care remained 32.5 percent, which is below that of OECD countries where the share of funding of primary care constitutes 61 percent. The key component of the health care reform is to move the medical care industry from government-funded to compulsory social health insurance. Starting 2017 employees were transferring one percent of payroll income to the Social Health Insurance Fund with the plan to increase this rate to three percent in 2022. The objective of our paper is to analyze the effect of the healthcare reform in Kazakhstan on the healthcare utilization rates using the data from the Household Budget Survey (HBS) conducted by Committee of Statistic under the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and collected on the annual basis. We will use econometrics and machine learning techniques to make the inference about the change in variables of interest. Our hypothesis is that policy reforms in Kazakhstan will positively influence the usage of medical facilities by citizens; that is the utilization rate will increase on average.

Biography

Akbobek Akhmedyarova candidate at Nazarbayev University, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. Akbobek does research in health economics. Her research interests focus the effect of healthcare policy in Kazakhstan on utilization rate of medical care.

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