# Healthcare and insurance in comparative systems

## Prof. Antonio Giulio de Belvis; Prof. Joan Costa Font

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The main course objectives are:

1. To provide a way of thinking about health care insurance

2. Understand the different health systems designs

3. A clear analytical way of examining health care reforms and health systems, according to a economic and a public health perspective

4. To understand the policy challenges of insurance, ageing, innovation, and inequality in the health sector.

At the end of the course the student:

1. Will know the main theoretical models that explain the organizations, governance and management of healthcare systems;
2. Will be able to define the main domains of functioning in healthcare systems;
3. Will be able to build a dashboard of indicators to measure the performance of an healthcare systems;
4. Given a public health issue (eg: vaccination, non communicable diseases,…) will be able to compare the main functions, organization of services (ie, health promotion and prevention, diagnostics, treatment, follow up and rehabilitation), healthcare and non healthcare interventions and policies among a panel of OECD countries. Focus on Covid 19 epidemics and healthcare systems: challenges and responses.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will first outline the approaches to analyze the organization, financing and delivery of health services among different health care models.

 We will classify and describe the main institutional framework for health policy and the process, content and implementation of this policy.

After classifying the models, we proceed by looking at the main dimensions of the health systems performance and how to compare performance in primary, secondary and tertiary care across the several health models.

Attention will also be paid to specific topics like health insurance, long term care funding, decentralisation, and health inequalities.

***READING LIST***

Smith EC, Mossialos E, Papanicolas I, Leatherman S. Performance Measurement for Health System Improvement: Experiences, Challenges and Prospects. 2010, Cambridge University Press, New York.

Fattore G, de Belvis AG, Ricciardi W, Morsella A et al. Covid 19 Health Systems Response Monitor. Available at: <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/italy/countrypage.aspx>.

Ferrè F, de Belvis AG, Valerio L, Longhi S, Lazzari A, Fattore G, Ricciardi W, Maresso A. Italy: Health System Review. Health Syst Transit. 2014 Sep;16(4):1-168.

de Belvis AG, Ferrè F, Specchia ML, Valerio L, Fattore G, Ricciardi W. The financial crisis in Italy: implications for the healthcare sector. Health Policy. 2012 Jun;106(1):10-6.

Costa-Font JC, Turati G. Regional health care decentralization in unitary states: equal spending, equal satisfaction? Regional Studies. 2017. ISSN 0034-3404

Costa-Font JC Sato A. Health systems futures: The challenges of technology, prevention and insurance. Futures 2012 44(7):696-703.

Costa-Font JC, Hernández-Quevedo C. Measuring inequalities in health: what do we know? What do we need to know?. Health Policy 2012, 106(2):195-206.

Costa-Font JC. The National Health Service at a critical moment: when Brexit means hectic Journal of Social Policy 2017 46 (4):783-795.

Costa‐Font JC, Courbage C, Swartz K. Financing long‐term care: ex ante, ex post or both? Health Economics 2015, 24:45-57.

Costa-Font JC, Vilaplana M. More than One Red Herring’? Heterogeneous Ageing Effects on Healthcare Use. Health Economics 2020, 29: 8-29.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The format of this course is a combination of lectures, case discussions, and readings. We will employ the following teaching methods:

(a) Readings from textbooks: To provide basic structure, concepts and techniques.

(b) Readings from journals: To augment the textbooks and provide more rigorous intellectual foundation.

(c) Lectures/Classes/Discussions: To create a coherent framework of studying the source material; to give students a chance to ask questions and clarify their understanding.

(d) Case studies: To apply what has been learnt to real life situations.

Active student participation is essential in the classes. In the classes, the lecturer will introduce the topic/case/experiment/exercise and lead the discussion. Students are encouraged to present pre-assigned material and lead part of the discussion in the class group. Pre-assigned reading of cases and exercises is essential.

Practicals

Evaluation of health care systems; Performance indicators; By considering the ongoing pandemic threat, a web based cross-country comparisons of policies and management of Covid-19 will be performed on several countries in the European Region of WHO.

***ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA***

The exam is composed of written questions regarding all modules.

The evaluation is based on two elements:

1. Group work on the organizations, health needs assessment, governance, allocation and health and non health policies and activities on a public health issue in a given OECD country

2. Final written test on the second part of the program.

All the elements of evaluation (group work and final examination) are expressed in 30/30.

All the other details concerning the exam procedures will be given out by the Lecturer at the beginning of the course.