

ACTORS, CONTRACTS AND PAYMENT MECHANISMS: THE CASE OF SALTA HEALTH SYSTEM

Abstract

The national health system is decentralized and local authorities have the capacity to develop interventions in order to transfer or to share financial and epidemiological risks. However, there is not much information about the institutional answer of the private subsector and health insurances.

This study analyzes the association among the structure of the private health services market, the payments mechanisms and the answers related to internal organization and transference of risk in Salta.

Several depth interviews to key actors were carried out, as well as surveys in a sample of private institutions in order to get information about competence perceptions, strategies, contracts and payment mechanisms.

The study concludes that there is a correlation among population scale, competence level and relative power of the main competitor.

At the same time, they develop more incentives to be differentiated using different strategies to the prices as reputation, alternative services and infrastructure.

The local health insurance (for public workers), the national health insurances and PAMI (for retired people) respectively, are the main financial backers of the private sector and according to its power, they can establish contracts and mechanisms of payment.