Euro Health Consumer Index 2013

Brussels, November 28, 2013

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The aging challenge

A gigantic problem, or a fantastic sign of success for modern healthcare?
21st century healthcare; its own worst threat?

A growing mountain of care needs?
About
Health Consumer Powerhouse

✓ Comparing healthcare systems performance in 35 countries from a consumer/patient view.

✓ Since 2004, more than 40 index editions, available for free.

✓ Index projects financed through unconditional development grants, similar to medical faculty sponsored research.

Europe

✓ Euro Consumer Heart Index 2008
✓ Euro Diabetes Care Index 2008, 2014
✓ Euro HIV Index 2009
✓ Euro Patient Empowerment Index 2009
✓ Nordic COPD Index 2010
✓ Tobacco Harm Prevention Index 2011
✓ Euro Headache Index 2011
✓ Euro Hepatitis Index 2012
✓ Euro Vision Scorecard 2013
✓ Euro Pancreatic Cancer Index 2014

Sweden, others

✓ Breast Cancer Index Sweden 2006
✓ Vaccination Index Sweden 2007, 2008
✓ Renal Care Index Sweden 2007, 2008
✓ Smoke Cessation Index Sweden 2008
✓ COPD Index Sweden 2009, Nordic 2010
✓ Advanced Home Care Index Sweden 2010
✓ Euro-Canada Health Consumer Index Canada 2008, 2009
EHCI 2013
Important trends

✔ Treatment results in European healthcare keep improving essentially everywhere!

✔ Wealthy countries do better in the EHCI – there seems to be a slightly growing equity gap

✔ Savings on pharmaceuticals the most obvious effect of austerity

✔ Some patterns remarkably stable over time – waiting lists a mental condition?

✔ “Bismarck beats Beveridge”!
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A total of 48 indicators in six sub-disciplines

And yes; we have tried throwing everything but the kitchen sink at The Netherlands to end their victories, with no success!
What can Europe learn from The Netherlands?

”Chaos” systems, where patients can choose where to seek care, do better than ”planned” systems;

but ”chaos” needs to be managed, and the NL does that very well!

Choice and competition! (and remember that this has to have a ”grandfather” function managing the system!)
So what could be the improvement potential for the European Champions?

The Netherlands do fairly well all over; some potential for improvement on Accessibility
Iceland, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia seem to give good value for money in healthcare!
Total health expenditure, PPP$ per capita (2011)
Source: WHO HfA, July 2013

GP gatekeeping does not contain costs!
“Structural Antiquity” Index for healthcare systems

In-patient healthcare expenditure as % of total
Source: WHO HfA database, July 2013
Savings potential if Dutch healthcare would approach the in/out-patient mix of Sweden

✔️ EUR 8 billion/year?

✔️ *i.e.;* the high Dutch costs are more due to how healthcare is operated – not due to a payment or administrative “model”

✔️ and then do away with GP gatekeeping as you go!
Do The Netherlands really have an exceptional number of patients in long-term psychiatric care?

In official WHO data, the NL (along with Belgium) have the highest numbers in Europe of patients staying >365 days in psychiatric care: ~850 per million population.
No significant correlation between accessibility and money! Waiting times are a mental condition affecting healthcare professionals and administrators!
If you spend enough time looking at this graph, you will discover that countries in the top keep improving, while declines are more common at the bottom!

Inequity seems to be increasing in Europe after the financial crisis!

The HCP believes that the Bulgarian ascent in 2013 is an artefact, created by a central official.
England and Scotland have separate National Health Services!!!

- Scotland has 10% higher healthcare spend per capita
- Could be fair; the public health situation is more troublesome in Scotland (and they seem to have made an effort on CVD)
- But the two systems are basically the same, when measured on a scale intended for 34 European countries!
- Scotland 719 – England 718!
- There is scant evidence for having separate sets of administrators making a difference at all!
Treatment results keep improving!

Cancer survival rates 2012 (1 minus mortality/incidence)
Treatment results keep improving!

Infant deaths per 1000 live births
( WHO HfA July 2013)

In EHCI 2006, there were 9 Green scores, using the same cut-offs
And yes; wealthy countries have better Outcomes – but not all!
Women should have the right to abortion, but abortion as a contraceptive is not a good idea!

Abortions per 1000 live births
WHO HfA, July 2013

[Graph showing the number of abortions per 1000 live births across various countries.]
Restrictivity with new drugs

TNF-α inhibitors (new arthritis medication)
SU:s per 1000 prevalent population 15+; IMS MIDAS database
Restrictivity with new drugs

Increased delays between registration of a drug, and its inclusion in subsidy systems, also in countries not much affected by financial crisis (Source: EFPIA)
"Bismarck Beats Beveridge"

- Bismarck systems dominate the top of EHCI ranking
  - Beveridge systems offer conflicts between loyalty to citizens and loyalty to healthcare system/organisation ("politician home town job preservation")
  - Lack of business acumen in Beveridge systems; efficiency gains and cutbacks frequently not differentiated!
  - Small Beveridge systems (the Nordic countries) can compete

- "Chaos" systems do better than centrally planned
  - 100’s of thousands of professionals take better decisions and drive development better than central bodies
  - Incentives driving quality and productivity are essential!
MORE SLIDES
How can “out of control” be stable?

MRSA; % of hospital-acquired infections being resistant

Source: ECDC EARS-net, most data 2011
The British must have become very good at cleaning hospitals!

Antibiotics use, SU/capita 12 months ending June 2013
IMS MIDAS database
Europe is divided into "waiting list territory" (Red) and "non-waiting list territory" (Green).

This is remarkably constant over time, and independent of GDP/capita.
Accessibility poorly correlated with numbers of doctors

Source: WHO Health for All database, January 2012
Patterns in the doctor density and productivity graph

High doctor productivity:

- Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Poland: Generous rules for work absenteeism to see a doctor?
- Switzerland: superior access!
- Spain: ?

Low doctor productivity:

- Nordic countries: Low productivity due to rationing ideology inspired by old Chinese philosophy: “The perfect healthcare system is that where nobody needs to see a doctor”. Making it a major undertaking to get an appointment is not the same thing!
- Austria: “The Mexican policeman principle” = Why pay doctors well, when they run side businesses anyway?
- Greece, Cyprus: an artefact caused by tax evasion?
- Malta: ?
"The verdict of the people on the medical profession. Swedes are less satisfied with attitudes and communication skills of doctors, says international comparison. Norway and Sweden bottom of 11 countries compared." (Dagens Medicin 2012-02-29)

The cherished notion that "In Sweden, we provide holistic medicine – in contrast to ‘assembly line medicine’ down on the Continent" lacks evidence!.
(Web)information to the public about which hospitals have the best results (2012)
Websites with comprehensive information about all registered pharmaceuticals 2013 (OTC and Rx)

- Austria: www.austriacodex.at/avmain/  http://pharmaweb.ages.at/index.jsf
- Belgium: http://www.bcfi.be/, www.pharma.be
- Croatia: http://www.almp.hr/?ln=hr&w=lijekovi
- Denmark: http://medicin.dk/
- Estonia: www.raviminfo.ee
- Finland: www.fimea.fi/lakemedel/produktresumeer/humpl
- France: www.doctissimo.fr
- Germany: www.onmeda.de
- Greece: www.galinos.gr/web/drugs/main/lists
- Hungary: www.ogyi.hu/drug_database/
- Ireland: www.medicines.ie
- Italy: www.prontuariofarmaci.com
- Lithuania: www.vaistai.lt
- Norway: www.legemiddelverket.no/custom/Preparatsok/prepSearch____80333.aspx?filterBy=CopyToConsumer
- Portugal: www.infarmed.pt/infomed/inicio.php
- Slovakia: www.liekinfo.sk
- Slovenia: www.zdravila.net
- Sweden: www.fass.se
- Switzerland: www.kompendium.ch
- U.K.: http://emc.medicines.org.uk/
NB! No correlation with national wealth!

Caesarean sections per 1000 live births, 2011 or l.a. (WHO HfA)
Why do we not see clearer traces of the financial crisis?

Healthcare traditionally weak at measuring output/outcomes.

“The good old days that never were”

Underlying improvement forces are very strong!
THANK YOU -

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