

Publication

A scoping review of empirical evidence on the impacts of the DRG introduction in Germany and Switzerland

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4491414

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Year 2018

Title A scoping review of empirical evidence on the impacts of the DRG introduction in Germany and Switzerland

Journal International Journal of Health Planning and Management

Volume 34

Number 1

Pages / Article-Number 56-70

Keywords DRG; Germany; Switzerland; scoping review

Germany and Switzerland have introduced diagnosis-related groups (DRGs) for hospital reimbursement. This scoping review aims to evaluate if empirical evidence exists on the effect of the DRG introduction.; Medline via PubMed, Embase (Elsevier), CINAHL, PsychINFO, and Psynex were systematically screened for studies from 2003 onwards using keywords-DRG, prospective payment system, and lump sum-in English, German, and French. Abstracts were screened for alignment with our inclusion criteria and classified as editorial/commentary, review, or empirical study. The full-text extraction included data on country, study design, collected data, study population, specialty, comparison group, and outcome measures.; Our literature search yielded 1944 references, of which 1405 references were included in the abstract screening after removal of duplicates. 135 articles were relevant to DRG, including 94 editorials/comments/reviews and 41 empirical articles from 36 different samples. The most frequently used outcome parameters were length of stay (12), reimbursement/cost (9), and case numbers (9).; Only a minority of identified articles (30.4%; 41 of 135) presented empirical data. This indicates that discussion on the topic is not totally evidence-based. The only common trend was a decrease in length of stay.

Publisher Wiley

ISSN/ISBN 0749-6753 ; 1099-1751

edoc-URL <https://edoc.unibas.ch/67226/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1002/hpm.2669

PubMed ID <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30426573>

ISI-Number WOS:000464099700011

Document type (ISI) Review