

SESSION 3: INFORMAL PAYMENTS AND HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS**PROJECT PRESENTATION:****“WHO IS WILLING AND ALREADY PAYING? HUNGARIAN RESULTS ON WILLINGNESS TO PAY AND INFORMAL PAYMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES”**

Presented by:

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**ABSTRACT:**

In 2010, a household survey on willingness to pay for health care services was carried out in Hungary with 1037 respondents (a sample representative for the country). The survey relied on a combination of revealed and stated preference techniques (incl. contingent valuation method) to collect relevant data. Based on the data from the contingent valuation method, we examine the determinants of willingness to pay for health care services, namely socio-demographic characteristics, use and payments for health care services during the last 12 months, and attitude towards informal payments. Regression analysis is used in the analysis, namely probit and linear regression.

Our results show that 66% of the respondents are willing to pay for specialist visit and 56% of them are willing to pay for hospital care. Respondents with higher education and higher income are significantly more willing to pay, while respondents on disabled pension and from the capital are less willing to pay for these health care services. Informal payments during the last 12 month are the strongest determinant of willingness to pay. Respondents, who report informal payments during the last 12 month, are more willing to pay for health care services (probability increase of 23% in the case of specialist services and 25% in the case of hospitalization). Those respondents whose attitude is indifferent or positive towards cash informal payments, are also more willing to pay for health care services.

Overall, it can be concluded that the Hungarian population is rather tolerable towards informal payments. Consequently, policy measures aiming to eradicate informal payments should also focus on changing this attitude. Formal payments should be accompanied with improvements in quality of and access to health care services. Otherwise, these formal payments might not be able to substitute the informal ones and might induce a double financial burden on the population.

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