

Abstract

The information and policy on private medical practices

Objective: To observe the scope and role of private medical practice in urban and rural China, where was transferred economic structure from planning economy to market economy. Information provided by the study was support to central government for its health policy reform. **Method:** Qualitative and quantitative investigation conducted by authors. Doctors, residents and government officials were surveyed or interviewed. Focus group discussion, key person interview, and questionnaire survey were the major methods of information collection. **Results:** Private hospital and clinic in urban and rural China were welcomed by residents for its lower price, friendly doctor-patient relation, and convenience for visit. More satisfy on their income of private doctors than public doctors. Regulation and monitoring on private medical service were urgent opinions of officials and residents. Even there small percentage of service provided by private sector, competition between strong public hospitals and private service would observed significantly. For the different benefits of stakeholders for this private service issue, analysis of stakeholder opinion was valuable for decision-makers of health department, and health service and policy study. **Conclusion:** Private medical practice was needed to be focused and regulated by Chinese government. More cost-effectiveness and efficiency issues of public health sector could be found on their 'opponent'. Meanwhile, qualitative study method for health issues could be the another channel to provide WHY questions, especially on health policy analysis.