

Rollen, opdrachten & initiatieven van de ziekenfondsen in de gezondheidszorg

Hervé AVALOSSE, Anja CROMMELYNCK, Xavier DE BÉTHUNE (*)

ABSTRACT

The primary role of mutual health funds in Belgium is to enable operation of the national compulsory health insurance system. They also play an important role in informing and protecting their members and in cooperating with health care practitioners and institutions to preserve both quality and accessibility of health care. Finally, as members of National Health Institute decision making committees, they contribute to defining national health care policy. In this paper we describe the health care budget layout procedure, the system of financial responsibility of the mutual health funds and a series of information tools to health care users and providers. Subsequently we describe the 'Quality Initiatives' of the Christian Mutual Health Fund and a common initiative of all mutual health funds called the 'Intermutualistic Agency'. This agency integrates mutual health funds data, analyses them and/or puts them at the disposal of external researchers. Finally we describe the complementary services available to members through the mutual health funds.

Keywords: mutual health fund, health insurance, health care policy, accessibility, quality, information tools

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(*) Afdeling Onderzoek & Ontwikkeling – Landsbond der Christelijke Mutualiteiten
herve.avalosse@mc.be ; anja.crommelynck@cm.be ; xavier.debethune@mc.be
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