

Bestedingen voor gezondheidszorg in België gezien in een internationaal perspectief

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ABSTRACT

Belgian health and long term care consumption in an international perspective

Health and long term care services consumption in Belgium are estimated to correspond to about 10 Pct. of GDP. The possibility of international comparisons and breakdowns however, were limited. The 'System of health accounts' methodology, developed by the OECD, offers for the first time a framework to make comparative analyses between countries. In this article, an overview of the most important concepts, delimitations and definitions are expounded. The first estimation results 2003-2007 for Belgium are presented, together with a glimpse of analysis and comparison with other countries.

The discussion on the sustainability of the health care insurance and the public expenditure on health care, needs to be contextualised. Social security, and its budgetary debate is important, but is on the other hand 'only' a part of the total image. If expenditure can be estimated on the side of public interventions, it is much harder to do the same for the sensitive part of the households 'out-of-pocket' expenditure. Options for estimation exist but present limitations, some of which are highlighted here.

Keywords: Health care market analysis, Health 'general', Health 'other'.

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"Ik weet slechts één ding: dat ik niets weet." (Socrates)