

The rise of the health economy: challenges, opportunities and options for reform

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ABSTRACT

Demographic, scientific and technological evolutions are increasingly putting financial strain on Belgium's healthcare system. Both public and private healthcare expenditures are on the rise. Without thorough, structural reforms we risk the unfortunate but inevitable decline of a system previously renowned for its quality and accessibility. The purpose of this article is to offer some food for thought on healthcare policy reform in Belgium. We will focus on new roles for all the actors of the healthcare system, new financial and non-financial incentives for the healthcare providers and organisations to accept and expand these new roles, and a broader (horizontal?) reorganisation of the system placing the patient and the pathology at its very core (also known as the continuum of care). In our conclusion, we plead for a better reflexion on healthcare funding.

Keywords: public and private healthcare expenditures, healthcare reform, healthcare policy, sick funds, e-Health, continuum of care, health care financing.

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