

Hospital staff across sectors: Implications for medical practice

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Abstract

Does hospital staff management impact medical practices? Using exhaustive delivery data from a French district over a 11-year period (2008-2018), we control for factors that are known to influence obstetric practices. We show that the staffing levels of obstetricians and midwives inversely impact the probability of planned cesareans. The effect of midwives' staffing levels is observed in both public and private sector while the effect of obstetricians' staffing levels is observed for public hospitals. When we focus on high-risk women, these hospital staffing effects are only observed in the public sector. However, when we focus on low-risk women, we find that staffing levels of obstetricians positively impact the probability of planned cesareans in private hospitals. Our results highlight the importance of having appropriate provision of health services. They guide the regulator on the necessity to determine staffing needs across sectors and to ensure adequate staffing levels in the health facilities.

Keywords: Hospital staff; Hospital sector; Cesarean delivery

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