

Title: Evaluation of payment systems aimed at producing coordinated and integrated health and social care

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Patients with complex needs receive health and social care from several providers such as general practitioners, hospitals, and care homes. These providers often work independently and without strong coordination, which may lead to inefficiencies and sub-optimal patient outcomes. To encourage more integrated care, decision-makers in the UK and internationally have begun to implement episodic or bundled payments that cover the entire patient care pathway. However, the properties and design of such incentive payments has received limited attention in the health economics literature so far.

This PhD thesis will investigate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of payment schemes that encourage integrated care. The student will apply advanced econometric methods for programme evaluation to micro-level health care data from the English NHS. There is also scope to develop contract theory applied to integrated care arrangements that incentivise better health outcomes, efficient and cost-effective use of resources, and encourages team effort across providers..