

Marisa Carlos

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Education

Ph.D., Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University	(Expected 2019)
M.S., Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University	2017
B.S.B.A., Business Economics (<i>magna cum laude</i>), University of Arizona	2012

Research Interests

supply-side health economics: health insurance, safety-net providers, hospitals, pharmaceutical marketing

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Sean Nicholson, Cornell University	2015; 2018
Research Transparency Intern, J-PAL Global	2018
Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Samuel Kleiner, Cornell University	2015 - 2017
Undergraduate Research Assistant, Professor Tracy Regan, University of Arizona	2012
Undergraduate Research Assistant, Professor Price Fishback, University of Arizona	2011 - 2012

Work in Progress

The Effects of Prescription Drug Coupons on Generic Drug Use, Adherence, and Competition: Evidence from Three Drug Classes (*Job Market Paper*)

Prescription drug coupons—offers from pharmaceutical companies to pay a portion of a patient's out-of-pocket prescription cost—are the subject of a current and growing debate. Insurance companies and governments are concerned that coupons increase costs without improving health by shifting patients away from generic drugs and towards costly, brand-name drugs. Pharmaceutical companies allege that coupons improve medication adherence, thus improving health and lowering overall healthcare spending. In this paper, I address this debate by using insurance claims from 2007 to 2016 to estimate the effect of coupons on generic drug use, medication adherence, and brand-to-brand competition for drugs in three drug classes: statins, antipsychotics, and acne treatments. I take advantage of a law in Massachusetts which barred residents from using coupons and was amended in 2012 to allow coupon use *only* for drugs without a generic equivalent, to estimate difference-in-differences and triple-difference models. The results indicate that coupons decrease generic drug use as measured by an estimated 1.9 percentage point (16%) decrease in generic efficiency, and a 2.9 percentage point (35%) increase in the use of “dispense as written”. I find no evidence that coupons shift patients away from older, generic drugs and towards newer, brand-name drugs. Additionally, I do not find evidence that coupons affect medication adherence or brand-to-brand competition. The results are consistent with the notion that prescription drug coupons increase costs without improving health.

Hospital Ownership and Admission Through the Emergency Department

Using the universe of ER discharge records for multiple states and years, I determine whether hospital ownership affects hospital admission rates for patients who show up in the emergency room. I use within-hospital variation from ownership conversions to estimate hospital fixed-effects regressions and event studies. The results indicate that conversion to for-profit from nonprofit or government ownership results in a 2-3 percentage point increase in admission rates, with the effects concentrated to Medicare and Medicaid patients. These results are consistent with whistleblower lawsuits which allege that for-profit hospitals admit patients through the ED when it is not medically necessary.

Non-Monetary Obstacles to Medical Care: Evidence from Postpartum Contraceptives (with Barton Willage)

Hospital Amenities and Patient Demand: Evidence from Maternity Care (with Samuel Kleiner)

Fellowships & Grants

	2018
Mathematica Summer Fellowship, Washington D.C.	2016; 2017
Morgan Teaching Assistantship, Cornell University	2014; 2016; 2017
SUNY Graduate Diversity Fellowship, Cornell University	2015 - 2016
Wimberley-Johnson Scholarship, University of Arizona	2013 - 2014; 2016 - 2017
Wildcat Excellence Scholarship, University of Arizona	2011
	2007 - 2011

Conference & Seminar Presentations

2018	Institute on Health Economics, Health Behaviors & Disparities Seminar (Ithaca, NY; upcoming)
	Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (Washington, DC; upcoming)
	Mathematica Policy Research (Washington, DC)
2017	International Health Economics Association World Congress (Boston, MA)
	Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Student Conference (Arlington, VA)
	Eastern Economic Association Conference (discussant; New York, NY)
2016	American Society of Health Economists (Philadelphia, PA)

Teaching Experience

Cornell University

Teaching Assistant, PAM 4370: Economics of Health Care Markets, Prof. Samuel Kleiner	2015
Teaching Assistant, PAM 2000: Intermediate Microeconomics, Prof. Samuel Kleiner	2015
<i>(4.67/5.00; 1=poor, 5=excellent; evaluations available upon request)</i>	
Teaching Assistant, PAM 2350: The U.S. Health Care System, Prof. Sean Nicholson	2014

University of Arizona

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Econ 150: An Economic Perspective (Prof. Tracy Regan)	2011
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Academic Service

Volunteer Tutor, Columbus Metropolitan Library	2017 - Present
President, Graduate Students in PAM, Cornell University	2015 - 2016
PIER Seminar Coordinator, Graduate Students in PAM, Cornell University	2015 - 2016
Graduate School Orientation Leader, Cornell University	2014

Professional Activities & Affiliations

Institute for Health Economics, Health Behaviors and Disparities, Cornell University
 American Society of Health Economists
 Eastern Economic Association
 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management

Software Skills

STATA, SAS, Python, Git/[GitHub](#), SQL, Linux/Unix, Excel, L^AT_EX

References

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