

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Are Medicaid and Medicare Patients Treated Equally?](#)

Article Link: <https://www.frbsf.org/research-and-insights/publications/working-papers/2024/04/a-re-medicaid-and-medicare-patients-treated-equally/>

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Tweet: When Medicaid patients qualify for Medicare at age 65, service provision increases by about 20%. 60-90% of the increase in office visits is with physicians who had not accepted a new Medicaid patient in the prior year. @ah_shapiro

Summary: We track the services provided to the same individual as they age into Medicare from Medicaid at age 65, becoming dual enrolled. On average, a one percentage point increase in Medicare acceptance rates is correlated with a 0.008 larger increase in primary care visits, consistent with patients having more access using more care. Bringing the Medicare acceptance rate down to the Medicaid acceptance rate (about 10 percentage points) would lead to about .08 fewer monthly primary care visits, which is about one-third of the pre-period mean and about 50% higher than the total increase we see in primary visits. A 10 percentage point increase in the state-level Medicaid acceptance rate would lead to a 0.028 smaller increase in specialist visits per month across the threshold, about 11% of the pre-period mean. Results are especially strong for new-patient visits with specialists. [Our] analysis indicates that Medicaid's smaller provider network plays a large role in limiting service provision. Related: Has the Medicare Cost Problem Gone Away? and A Huge Threat to the U.S. Budget Has Receded. And No One Is Sure Why and Why Medicare and Social Security Are Sustainable

Primary Topic: Government Spending

Topics: Academic paper, Fiscal Policy, Government Spending

Permalink: <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/when-medicaid-patients-qualify-for-medicare-at-age-65-service-provision-increases-by-about-20-60-90-of-the-increase-in-office-visits-is-with-physicians-who-had-not-accepted-a-new-medicaid-patient-in?view=detail>

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