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Education

Ph.D. Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison Expected 2022

M.S. Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison September 2018

B.A. Economics and English
The University of Texas at Austin May 2016

Working papers

Health Information Technology and Innovation Diffusion in Primary Care Settings (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: The electronic health record (EHR) is a pervasive tool that, drawing on patients' treatment and medical histories, can inform physicians when a patient is eligible for a service according to clinical guidelines. Nudges such as these have scope to increase provision of recommended services by informing or reminding physicians of the relevance of clinical guidelines. This paper examines whether the EHR might influence physician decision making by validating new technologies for performing recommended services. We answer this question in the context of alerts for colorectal cancer screening at the primary care clinics of a large academic health system. These alerts informed primary care physicians that eligible and due patients should be screened and that virtual colonoscopy (VC), a technology for colorectal cancer screening that had not yet been officially validated, was an available method of screening. We find that the implementation of the alert more than tripled VC's share of screenings, and increased screening rates by 0.4 percentage points (24%). These effects are concentrated among patients least likely to be screened in the baseline period, who are older, non-white, and have multiple comorbidities. We use a nested logit model to quantify how much the nudge and validation effects of the alert contribute to the increase in screening rates and find that the nudge effect accounts for 62% of the increase.

The Impact of a National Formulary Expansion on Diabetics (with Natalia Serna) *Under review*

Abstract: This paper estimates the causal impact of Colombia's national prescription drug formulary expansion on the healthcare utilization and costs of type I diabetics and identifies the channels through which outpatient cost reductions are realized. We find that insulin consumption rises for almost all insulin types, while outpatient care utilization falls by 3.2 claims. We devise tests to explore the relative importance of two channels by which the expansion may have lowered non-drug costs: spillovers from drug to non-drug spending and rationing of care. We find no evidence that the formulary expansion reduced the rate of

complications from diabetes and find substantial declines in non-drug costs even among the subset of diabetics with no scope for spillovers. We find large reductions in the utilization of discretionary care including diagnostic tests, but no such declines for the use of essential drugs, suggesting that rationing of care is the primary driver of cost savings.

Medicaid Enrollment Assistance and Post-Incarceration Health Care Use among Adults with a History of Substance Use (with Marguerite Burns, Steven Cook, Lars M. Brown, Steve Tyska, Karla Romero Hernandez, and Ryan P. Westergaard)

Revise and Resubmit JAMA

Abstract: Is prison-based Medicaid enrollment assistance associated with increased use of health care within 30-days of prison release among adults with a history of substance use? We perform a retrospective cohort study of adults released from state prison between April 2014 and December 2016. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections implemented pre-release Medicaid enrollment assistance in January 2015. We compared average outcomes for those released before and after its implementation using an intent-to-treat analysis and person-level data from corrections and Medicaid. We find that the availability of pre-release Medicaid enrollment assistance was associated with large relative increases in the likelihood of any outpatient care including visits related to substance use disorders and no changes in hospital-based care.

Work in progress

Referral and Treatment Decisions Under Mixed Contracts (with Natalia Serna and Gabriel Martinez-Roa)

The Role of Electronic Health Record Alerts in the Diffusion of New Technologies (with Perry Pickhardt and Jennifer Weiss)

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Marguerite Burns
University of Wisconsin – Madison

September 2020 – August 2021

Research Assistant for Christopher Sullivan
University of Wisconsin – Madison

January 2019 – August 2020

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant for Econ 100: Introduction to Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Fall 2018

Head Teaching Assistant for Econ 102: Introduction to Macroeconomics
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant for Econ 102: Introduction to Macroeconomics
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

Conference Presentations

Washington University in St. Louis Economics Graduate Student Conference
St. Louis, MO

October 2021

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| Latin American Health Economics Network Virtual | September 2021 |
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| American Society of Health Economists Conference Virtual | June 2021 |
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| Midwest Economics Association Conference Virtual | March 2021 |
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Other Publications

“Comment on Azad et al.’s ‘Cost-utility of colorectal cancer screening at age 40 years old for average-risk patients.’” *Preventive Medicine* 139: 106140 (2020).

Honors and Awards

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| Christensen Graduate Fellowship in Empirical Economics University of Wisconsin – Madison | Fall 2021 |
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| Juli Plant Grainger Summer Research Fellowship University of Wisconsin – Madison | Summer 2019 |
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| Christensen Award in Empirical Economics University of Wisconsin – Madison | Spring 2019 |
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| Juli Plant Grainger Outstanding Teaching Assistant University of Wisconsin – Madison | Spring 2018 |
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Memberships

American Society of Health Economists
Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association
Midwest Economics Association