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Education

Ph.D. Economics, The Pennsylvania State University, 2018-2024 (expected)

MSc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, Distinction, 2015-2016

BSc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, First Class Honours, 2012-2015

Field of Interest

Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Industrial Organization

Research

Work in Progress

"Performance Score and Strategic Choice of Kidney Transplant Centers", November 2023 (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Does performance score affect a transplant center's strategic choices? To answer this question, we analyze the behavior of U.S. kidney transplant centers, where Medicare introduced Conditions of Participation (CoP), a performance score system, in 2007. Transplant centers are punished if their risk-adjusted death rate exceeds the threshold. Using a difference-in-difference framework, we do a before and after analysis based on the transplant center's distance from the performance threshold. We find that transplant centers reject transplants as they approach the threshold. The effect is most significant (22% less likely to do a transplant) at the threshold. We find that transplant centers are more likely to avoid medium/high-risk transplants than low-risk transplants as we approach the threshold. Secondly, we do not see any evidence to suggest performance scores improved transplanted patients' survival rates. Thirdly, low-volume centers are more likely to reject transplants than high-volume centers even before they approach the threshold. Contrary to previous literature, our results indicate that strategic behavior among transplant centers is more widespread than previously thought.

"Do transplant centers change strategies after poor performance?", August 2023 (Best 3rd year paper)

Abstract: Transplant centers with risk-adjusted death rates above a cutoff are flagged for poor performance and risk losing Medicare funding. In this paper, I use a sharp regression discontinuity design to study centers' response to being flagged for poor performance. Contrary to the existing literature, I find no evidence to suggest flagged centers reduce (increase) the transplant of high (low) risk kidneys or waitlist younger, less obese or non-diabetic patients.

Publications

"Association of transplant center market concentration and local organ availability with deceased donor kidney utilization", February 2022, *American Journal of Transplantation*

with Syed A. Husain, Kristen L. King, David C. Cron, Nikole A. Neidlinger, Sumit Mohan, Joel T. Adler

Experience

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Karl Schurter, The Pennsylvania State University, Summer 2020

Research Assistant for Davin Chor, National University of Singapore, 2017 - 2018

Research Assistant for Walter Theseira, Land Transport Authority, Singapore, 2016 - 2017

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University

Empirical Methods in Economics, 2021-2022, 2022-2023

Awards

Neil Wallace Award (Best 3rd year paper in Economics), Penn State

Language and Skills

Languages: Chinese (native), Bahasa (native), English (fluent)

Computer: Python, Stata, Matlab, Julia

References

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