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**Citizenship** United States

Education Ph.D., Public Policy and Management (Concentration: Applied Microeconomics) 2024

(expected)

Carnegie Mellon University

Advisors: Martin Gaynor, Anh Nguyen, Maryam Saeedi

A.B., Economics 2013

The University of Chicago

Research Areas Health Economics, Industrial Organization

Publications Gaynor, Martin, Adam Sacarny, Raffaella Sadun, Chad Syverson, and Shruthi Venkatesh.

2021. "The Anatomy of a Hospital System Merger: The Patient Did Not Respond Well to

Treatment." The Review of Economics and Statistics, forthcoming.

Working Papers

# "The Effects of Physician Practice Acquisitions on Hospital Competition" Job Market Paper

**Abstract:** Consolidation between hospitals and physician practices is a ubiquitous feature of health care markets across the US. This paper examines the impacts of hospital-physician practice acquisition on physician referrals, hospital prices, and welfare using detailed administrative claims data from the Massachusetts APCD. I find that the effects vary substantially across dominant and non-dominant hospital systems in the state. Among non-dominant hospitals, acquisition leads to a 20 percentage point increase in within-system referral rates and to higher hospital prices. In contrast, physician practice acquisition by a dominant hospital does not meaningfully shift referrals nor raise negotiated prices. To rationalize these empirical observations, I develop a bargaining model of competition and use the estimates to evaluate the effects of changes in physician practice ownership. The model demonstrates how changes in referral demand due to practice consolidation enhances the bargaining leverage of the acquiring hospital system. I then simulate the hospital acquisition of every physician practice in the state, and I find that hospital prices increase by \$198.58 per admission, though effects are larger across non-dominant firms. Higher payments to hospitals decrease insurer surplus. Patient welfare declines due to shifts in physician referrals post-acquisition.

Work in Progress

# "The Effect of Hospital-Physician Integration on Medicare Referrals,"

Media coverage: Wall Street Journal

**Abstract:** I examine the effect of hospital-physician practice acquisition on outpatient physician referral choice using the universe of Medicare claims data from 2007-2012. I use panel difference-in-difference regressions to document a .07 to .10 increase in the average probability that an acquired physician refers to the owning hospital post-merger.

This effect represents a nine-fold increase relative to the baseline probability of physician referral to the owning hospital and remains stable over two years after the acquisition date. Moreover, acquired physicians' increase in referrals to the owning hospital is driven almost entirely by a reduction in their referrals to independently owned physician practices.

## "Medical Malpractice Reform and Ob-gyn Entry: Evidence from Texas"

**Fellowships** 2021-2024: The Commonwealth Fund - The Impact of Physician Practice Acquisitions on and Grants Hospital Competition, PI: Martin Gaynor, \$186,800

#### **Presentations**

2023: UCSB Health Innovation Working Group (scheduled)

2022: American Society of Health Economists Conference

2021: Association of Public Policy and Management Student Seminar Series

2020: Pittsburgh Health Economics Workshop , American Society of Health Economists

Conference (postponed due to COVID19)

2019: NBER Health Economics Bootcamp, American Society of Health Economists Confer-

ence\*, American Association of Public Policy and Management\*

2017: International Health Economics Association

# Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University

PhD Econometric Theory and Methods II (PhD), 2017-2020; Intermediate Economics

(Masters), 2016-2020; Health Economics (Masters), 2016-2020

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago

Elementary Functions and Calculus I-III (Undergrad), 2012-2013

Honors	&
<b>Awards</b>	

Carnegie Mellon University Small Grant Award Carnegie Mellon University Presidential Fellowship National Merit Scholarship

2015-2016 2009-2013

2019

### Professional Activities

Referee for: Journal of Public Economics

<sup>\*</sup> indicates discussant