

Price sensitivity and regional variation in health care

Understanding the causes and consequences of current health policy is important in order to design and develop a health care system suitable for future challenges. Differences in health care utilization across areas within a country, referred to as regional variation in health care, have been documented in various health care settings, but it has proven difficult to establish the driving causes of regional variation. Price sensitivity in health care relates to the way individuals respond to economic incentives in health insurance and to patient out-of-pocket prices.

The purpose of this thesis is to bring evidence on the determinants of regional variation in health care and on individuals' responsiveness to patient out-of-pocket prices, using register data of the Swedish population and quasi-experimental methods to estimate causal effects.



Naimi Johansson, M.Sc. in economics and health economist at the University Health Care Research Center in Örebro, has conducted her postgraduate education at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

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Naimi Johansson

SAHLGRENKA ACADEMY
INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG