Seminario de Microeconomía Aplicada - Geographic Variation in Healthcare Utilization: The Role of Physicians
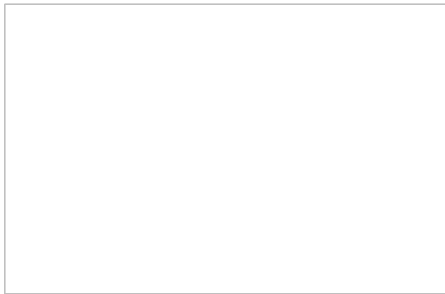
El seminario de Microeconomía Aplicada del Banco de la República es un espacio para discutir los trabajos en progreso en las diferentes áreas de la microeconomía aplicada como economía del trabajo, organización industrial, economía de la salud, economía agrícola, economía de la educación, desarrollo económico, delincuencia, economía pública, economía ambiental, economía regional y urbana, entre otras. Está organizado por las sucursales de Cali, Cartagena y Medellín.

Abstract: We study the role of physicians in driving geographic variation of US healthcare utilization. We estimate a model that separates variation in average utilization of Medicare beneficiaries due to physicians, non-physician supply side factors, and patient demand. The model is identified by migration of patients and physicians across areas, as well as by variation in within-area matching. We find that physicians vary greatly in the intensity with which they treat otherwise similar patients, and that at least a third of geographic differences in healthcare utilization can be explained by differences in average physician treatment intensity. Conservatively, physicians are three times as important as non-physician supply-side factors in explaining geographic variation. Around three-fifths of physicians' role comes from differences across areas in physician practice styles within the same specialty, while the other two-fifths reflects differences across areas in physician specialty mix.

Acerca del expositor: Peter Hull Professor of Economics at Brown University, a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and an Editor at the Review of Economics and Statistics. I study topics in applied econometrics, crime, discrimination, education, foster care, and healthcare.

Tiempo de exposición: 1 hora

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