



OECD Reviews of Health Systems: Costa Rica 2017

By -

Organization For Economic Co-Operation & Development. Paperback. Condition: New. 160 pages. This report puts forward policy recommendations for strengthening the performance and sustainability of the health care system in Costa Rica. There is much to praise in Costa Ricas health care system: institutional stability; a closely integrated but well-differentiated provider arm, with strong primary care; a degree of inter-sectoral co-ordination that serves as a model of good practice; detailed and effective dialogue between users and health service managers; and, innovation around professional roles and the use of ICT that other health systems could learn from. All this leads to health outcomes on a par with several OECD economies: life expectancy is 79. 9 years (compared to the OECD average, 80. 6) and less than 1 of the population report failing to seek care because of financial reasons. Nevertheless, serious strains are evident: spending is rising steeply, fuelled by salaries, fees and facility payments based on last years outlay. This increase is not associated with improvement in services: waiting lists are excessively long and growing. The system is perhaps too stable: institutional rigidity and vested interests have stalled vital reforms, meaning that Costa Rica still lacks systematic application of DRGs and...



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