

Convention on Health Analysis and Management

CHAM 2016

Healthcare: a distinct economy?

*Nicolas Bouzou, Laurence Comte-Arassus, Arnaud Robinet, Jean-Jacques Zambrowski
Moderator: Julien Kouchner*

Healthcare is a separate economy because it has a promising future. French health expertise should make the best of the aging European population. Aging is a social, but also an industrial issue.

1. What is the healthcare economy?

The definition of the healthcare economy differs depending on whether it is considered from the point of view of a patient, practitioner, manager, lawmaker, philosopher, sociologist, etc. These players' interests and stances are different in nature. Etymologically, 'economy' refers to effective resource management. Philosophically, there is a difference between the treatment of an illness and health management. The definition of the healthcare economy is therefore complex.

2. What is the cost of healthcare?

While it is easy to measure the cost of healthcare, it is difficult to measure its value. Healthcare costs can be measured, but the price of a health act has no meaning in a capitalist system. Since the healthcare system must be both economically efficient and fair, the State must intervene.

3. The PLFSS and innovation?

The PLFSS (social security financing bill) does not allow objectives and strategies to be put in place with the purpose of developing a healthcare policy. The first step would be to switch from an annual framework to a multi-year approach. As it is, the PLFSS only sets spending and revenue goals for a single year. This lack of a long-term, stable vision is detrimental to innovation, as are healthcare expenditure control goals. Manufacturers, as oft-criticised as they may be, do not have a clear enough view of the potential revenue to make the decision to innovate. They want to invest, but first they need to have an idea of the income they could generate.

4. The reinvention of the healthcare system

The healthcare system that arose out of Social Security recently celebrated its 70th birthday and must be reinvented. The PLFSS is dead and must be completely revised in order to increase manufacturer visibility and allow a major healthcare policy to be co-created. The healthcare sector is a major portion of GDP, but it is currently losing jobs. The world is changing with increasing speed. France must turn its words into deeds and mobilize the players of the

healthcare sector – both public and private – to develop a new method of operation, and meet health needs and patients’ expectations.

5. The patient at the centre of the healthcare system: the client-patient?

In reality, patients are clients. This is why the healthcare system is in need of greater liberalism, or at the very least, of greater freedom. It needs more flexibility and freedom to experiment at the appropriate level, which is the local level. The healthcare code system must liberate itself from the centralized assessment approach.

6. With the client-patient, the system requires more independence

To meet the client-patient’s needs, all players require greater autonomy, hospitals above all, as they must refocus on their role. Autonomy and departitioning must also lead to the development of the delegation of tasks. The best example is the flu vaccine. As health professionals, pharmacists could vaccinate patients when they purchase from the dispensary. This would give doctors more time to focus on their own responsibilities.

7. An innovative system integrated into the economic sphere

In order to take its rightful place in the global health economy, France must replicate its innovative excellence within the market authorization process. France innovates, but struggles to complete the market authorization stage. To such an extent that the majority of French innovators focus their activities on export.