

Seminar (new date!)

on Thursday, January 26, 2017, 16:00 (ISPM seminar room 606, first floor)

Should the state regulate or deregulate healthcare?

Dr. med Jan von Overbeck, Senior Health Officer, Canton of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Healthcare may be considered a common economic good, but in contrast to most other goods available in the healthcare industry, supply causes demand. Therefore, most people would agree that some kind of regulation is needed. It is unclear how much and at what level in the system.

Two types of examples will be used to analyze the Swiss situation. The first is the transition from a state-owned psychiatric clinic to a private hospital. How should we compare the outcomes of a public hospital and a private institution treating the same population? The second topic concerns the number of doctors needed in private practices to cover the demand for outpatient care. In Switzerland we have an oversupply of doctors – especially of specialists. Self-regulation does not work: should the state intervene?



Dr. med. Jan von Overbeck received his medical degree (1980) and doctorate (1983) from the University of Lausanne. He worked at a number of hospitals in Switzerland, South Africa, and Cameroun, specializing in internal medicine, infections, and tropical diseases. Von Overbeck served as senior registrar and consultant at the University Hospitals in Bern and Lausanne, and in 1990 was awarded the title of master of science by London University. From 1997 to 2006 he was chief medical officer at Swiss Re Life & Health, and taught internal medicine at the University Hospital of Zurich. In 2006 he joined the Swiss Center for Telemedicine in Basel as chief medical officer. Since 2014 he has been Senior Health Officer for the Canton of Bern. Beginning in 2015 he managed the privatization of a psychiatric clinic, and as of January 1, 2017, he is part-time CEO of the mental health competence center Réseau de Santé mentale.

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