



Hospital Unit Costs in Jordan: Analysis of public health providers

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Background

- Public providers in Jordan face increasing health demands. The population of Jordan is drastically growing due to refugee influxes. [1]
- The main healthcare provider is the public sector consisting of three providers: the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Military Royal Medical Services (RMS), and two university affiliated hospitals (UHs).[2]
- Universal health coverage is a strategic goal of the Government of Jordan. Yet, 32% of the Jordanian population remains uninsured.[1,2]
- Nonetheless, all residents, even those who lack formal health insurance coverage, can benefit from subsidized health-care services in Jordan.
- In official estimates, public health services are subsidized up to 80% of direct true medical costs.[3]



Methods

The unit costs of hospital services per admission, inpatient days, outpatient visits, emergency visits, and surgical operations were estimated using the standard average costing method (top-down) for the fiscal year 2018-2019 was estimated. Unit costs were estimated in Jordanian dinars (exchange rate 1 JOD = US\$ 1.41).

Average cost = total expenditure ÷ total output units . Total expenditure = $\sum C_{\text{drugs}} + C_{\text{salaries}} + C_{\text{medical and non-medical supplies}} + C_{\text{food and housekeeping}} + C_{\text{resource development and training}} + C_{\text{medical and non-medical equipment}} + C_{\text{administration}} + C_{\text{utilities and overhead expenses}}$.

Data were extracted after reviewing multiple source of data. Published as well as unpublished official reports as well providers financial records were reviewed. Data were collected from the three set of providers not on a facility level.

Results

The total number of hospitals included in the study analysis were 48 with a total of 9,235 beds. The unit costs of hospital services per provider varied widely depending on service utilization, type of service, and organizational outsets. Table 1 summarise unit estimates per provider.

There were a set of key challenges faced the study course, namely: willingness to share cost information, quality of recording systems and availability of data. Managers were resistant to share information for research purposes.

Table 1 Unit costs of hospital services per provider in Jordan

Unit costs (JDs)	MOH	RMS	UHs	Average
Cost per admission	557	914	740	782.3
Cost per inpatient day	175	277	230	236.6
Cost per bed day	119	207	162	172.9
Cost per outpatient visit	24	71	62	58.4
Cost per operation	402	548	399	449.6
Cost per emergency room visit	22	26	47	31.8

Conclusions

- Underpinning how costs of treating patients can vary across the public health system of Jordan is important to inform reimbursement and strategies for universal health financing and social protection of Jordanians and refugees.
- Effective partnerships and coordination among public providers is demanded.
- Institutionalization of cost information system and political support are needed to generate routine practice of collecting and sharing cost information.