

Request for an expert opinion: Best practices and potential pitfalls in public health sector commissioning from private providers

Background – Rationale

Many public health systems commission health care from private sector providers. These contracts require careful design in order to provide the correct incentives to providers, and establishing the adequate tariffs to ensure the public get good value for money. The proposal could establish the range of methods used to achieve these aims and determine what are best practice implementations that could be rolled out throughout the EU.

Rationale: Strengthening of the evidence-base for best practices and recommendations to Member States regarding health policy reforms.

Purpose

To develop a typology of methods used to commission health care from private sector that can be applied to policy-making. This should provide guidance to evaluate which policies can best tackle inefficiencies in health systems. In particular, it would ideally highlight how different contract features affect incentives and outcomes.

Suggested structure

Theoretical framework	<p>This would ideally include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rationale behind private commissioning • potential problems and market failures (this could include, cream-skimming, segmentation, duplication of infrastructures if there is public spare capacity, etc.) • differences when dealing with non-profit providers
Effective commissioning features good commissioning should include to tackle the potential issues predicted by economic theory	<p>This would ideally include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what procurement strategy should be used? • how should risk be shared? • how should prices and quantity of service be specified to ensure adequate coverage and access? • how should quality standards be set and measured to safeguard patient? • good examples of contracts that have been used to this end
Transition	<p>This would ideally include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what are potential issues in transitioning from fully public provision to mixed public/private provision? • what are good examples of transition?
EU Action	Would there be room for specific EU action here and

	what would it be exactly?
--	---------------------------

Timing
The opinion of the Expert Panel should be finalised by end-2015 / beginning-2016.