

Distribution of Health and Medical Service Expenditures among Age Groups in Japan

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Abstract

This paper measures the equity of health and medical service (HMS) expenditures among age groups. After a presentation of a theoretical model containing the distribution curve of the cumulative proportion of HMS, Gini Coefficient and Atkinson Measure, the equity in HMS among age groups is examined as an empirical study. The conclusion drawn is that the increase of total HMS expenditure depends mainly upon the increase in HMS expenditures for the elderly, which comes from an increase in per capita HMS expenditures for the elderly rather than an increase in the aged population. Also, it is important to introduce a new system, not only to share the tremendous increase in HMS costs fairly, but also to hold per capita HMS expenditures for the elderly at a minimum.
