

Abstract

The present thesis focuses on Czech allergology and clinical immunology by studying this branch of health care in a geographic variation framework while using methods of spatial econometrics. This has been the first work with such focus. District-level data on care provision and utilization in 2012 are used. It is found that there exist geographical differences between provision and utilization and that the geographical distribution of allergists and clinical immunologists does not correspond to population's needs. Care utilization is modeled using a spatial autoregressive model specification. Based on this model, it is concluded that a shortage of physicians in the majority of districts actually limits care utilization. Also based on the utilization model, there is a discussion about the potential need for policy coordination. Care provision cannot be modeled using explanatory variables that are available, therefore, future data collection is necessary. However, it was found that variables influencing the need for care by patients do not influence care provision per physician.

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