TITLE OF DISSERTATION
Impact of the Affordable Care Act’s Dependent Coverage Provision

ABSTRACT

Objective: The Affordable Care Act Dependent’s Coverage Provision (DCP) implemented in 2010 enabled young adults under the age of 26 years old to remain under their parents’ private health insurance coverage. This study evaluated the impact of the DCP in two ways. The first objective was to examine the impact of the DCP on access to health care in young adults with asthma. The second objective was to investigate the impact of the mandate on health-related outcomes in young adults.

Methods: Difference-in-differences (DID) method was used to compare changes in outcomes before and after the implementation of the DCP between the treatment group (young adults aged 23-25) and the control group (adults aged 27-29). Medical Expenditure Panel Survey data from 2003 to 2013 were used as the data source.

Results: In the access to care impact evaluation, the proportion of young adults with asthma who delayed obtaining necessary prescription medications decreased by 8.4 percentage points when compared to the control group. For the health-related outcomes impact evaluation, the probability of young adults having any limitation in work, housework, or school decreased by 1.6 percentage points when compared to the control group. A positive effect was also found on the mental health status. The 12-item Short Form Survey (SF-12) mental health component summary score in the young adults increased by 0.912 points when compared to the control group. In addition, a reduction of 0.643 kg/m2 in body mass index of young adults was also detected.

Conclusions: In the access to care impact evaluation, the DCP had a positive effect on delay in obtaining necessary prescription medicine. However, insufficient power to detect true effects may have limited this study. Future work should consider using alternative data sources such as administrative data. For the health-related outcomes impact evaluation, the findings suggest that the DCP had positive effects on the mental health status, the body mass index and the probability of having any activity limitations.

Keywords: young adults, the affordable care act, asthma, health outcomes, access to care
EDUCATION

September 2002-March 2008:
Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)
The Prince of Songkhla University, Songkhla, Thailand

Honors and Awards

2015-2017  Research Assistant, Archway Partnership Unit, Public Service Outreach, University of Georgia
2017      Travel Award, ISPOR 22nd Annual meeting in Boston
2016      Travel Award, ISPOR 21st Annual meeting in Washington DC
2013-2014  Graduate Assistantship, Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy, University of Georgia, Athens GA

ABSTRACTS

1. Changes of Young Adults' Disability days After the Affordable Care Act Extended Dependent Coverage at the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 22nd Annual International Meeting

2. Predicting Hospital Readmission Using the LACE index: Results from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey 2010-2012 at the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 21st Annual International Meeting

3. Relationship between Health-related Internet activities and Health-related Quality of Life among Asthma Patients at the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 20th Annual International Meeting

4. Factors Associated with African Americans' Utilization of Influenza vaccine at American Public Health Association (APHA) 2014 Annual Meeting

PUBLICATIONS

Saokaew S, Kanchanasuwan S, Apisarnthanarak P, et al. Clinical risk scoring for predicting non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in metabolic syndrome patients (NAFLD-MS score). Liver Int. 2017;00:1-9