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Health care price transparency – concept and occurrences in two countries

Abstract

Health care delivery is turning increasingly to market mode of activity. Private organizations gain ground in health delivery, and public organizations also adopt business-like approaches to organize activities. The functioning of the health care market is clearly an important issue. Among many issues catering for working markets, even in health care, is that of price transparency. In this article we discuss what price transparency is, what kind of mechanisms and approaches can be used to develop it in the health care market, and discuss its status in two example countries, US and Finland.