

Rebecca J. Gorges, Ph.D.

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POSITIONS

Department of Public Health Sciences and The Center for Health and the Social Sciences, The University of Chicago (Chicago, IL) July 2020-Present
Postdoctoral Fellow, T32 Training Program in the Demography and Economics of Aging

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Harris School of Public Policy, The University of Chicago (Chicago, IL). Public Policy, 2020
Dissertation: "Unintended consequences of Medicaid policy for high-needs beneficiaries"

References:

David Meltzer, PhD, MD
Professor, University of Chicago
dmeltzer@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

R. Tamara Konetzka, PhD
Professor, University of Chicago
tkonetzka@health.bsd.uchicago.edu

Dan Black, PhD
Professor, University of Chicago
danblack@uchicago.edu

M.A. Hunter College, City University of New York (New York, NY). Economics, 2014
Thesis: "Grade of Membership Latent Class Analysis of the Heterogeneity in Health Effects of Massachusetts Healthcare Reform"

B.S. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY). Chemical Engineering and Economics, 2004

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Effects of Medicaid Managed Care on Outcomes among the Dually Eligible"

Abstract: Beneficiaries that are Medicare-Medicaid dually enrolled (duals) account for a disproportionately large share of Medicaid and Medicare spending due to their poor health and propensity to use expensive long-term care services. In order to control program costs, many state Medicaid agencies have recently expanded their Medicaid managed care (MMC) programs to include duals. Enrollment in MMC could result in better health outcomes if health plans improve care coordination and emphasize high-value routine care to avoid costly care in the future. However, quality of care could decline if plans restrict access to needed services due to financial incentives to increase profits. In this study, I provide the first national estimates of the effects of MMC expansion from 2005 to 2012 for duals using claims data. Because the majority of duals have fee-for-service Medicare coverage, I am able to examine hospital use using FFS Medicare claims. I use difference-in-differences (DID) and instrumental variables (IV) methods to estimate plausibly causal impacts of three different types of MMC: comprehensive managed care (CMC), managed long-term service and supports (MLTSS), and primary care case management (PCCM). I find different effects of MMC on hospital use for the three different plan types. First, MLTSS plans are associated with increases in the rates of hospitalization and potentially avoidable hospitalization. For example, mandatory MLTSS programs are associated with increases in hospitalization of 1.7-4.2% of the baseline rate of hospitalization of 11.7%. Increases are concentrated among beneficiaries with many (as opposed to few) chronic conditions. I find mixed effects of CMC program expansions that exclude long-term care services: in mandatory enrollment settings, I find modest increases in hospitalization while in voluntary enrollment settings, I find

decreases in hospitalization. Finally, PCCM plans are not associated with changes in hospital use. This study provides the first national estimates of how a major financing change, the inclusion of duals in MMC, impacts hospital use, providing policymakers with much needed evidence as they face the challenge of financing public health insurance programs as health care costs rise and the population ages.

PUBLICATIONS

Gorges RJ and Konetzka RT. Staffing Levels and COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks in US Nursing Homes. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. August 2020. doi: 10.1111/jgs.16787

Gorges R, Sanghavi P, Konetzka RT. A National Examination of Long-Term Care Setting, Outcomes and Disparities among Elderly Dual-Eligibles. *Health Affairs*. July 2019. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05409

Parker WF, **Gorges RJ**, Gao YN, Zhang Y, Hur K, Gibbons RD. Association Between Groundwater Lithium and the Diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder and Dementia in the United States. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online May 23, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.1020

Ornstein K.A., Aldridge M.D., Garrido, M.M., **Gorges R.**, Bollens-Lund E., Siu A.L., Langa, K.M., and Kelley A.S.. "The Use of Life-Sustaining Procedures in the Last Month of Life Is Associated With More Depressive Symptoms in Surviving Spouses." *J Pain Symptom Management*. Feb 2017, 53(2): 178-187. doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2016.08.023.

Ornstein KA, Aldridge M.D., Mair C.A., **Gorges R.**, Siu A.L., and Kelley A.S. "Spousal Characteristics and Older Adults' Hospice Use: Understanding Disparities in End-of-Life Care." *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. May 2016, 19(5): 509-515. doi:10.1089/jpm.2015.0399.

Kelley, A. S., Covinsky, K. E., **Gorges, R. J.**, McKendrick, K., Bollens-Lund, E., Morrison, R. S. and Ritchie, C. S. "Identifying Older Adults with Serious Illness: A Critical Step toward Improving the Value of Health Care." *Health Services Research*. 2016. doi: 10.1111/1475-6773.12479

Cooper, Z. S.L. Mitchell, **R.J. Gorges**, R.A. Rosenthal, S.R. Lipsitz, A.S. Kelley. "Predictors of Mortality Up to 1 Year After Emergency Major Abdominal Surgery in Older Adults." *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. 63:2572–2579, 2015.

Kelley, A, K McGarry, **R. Gorges**, J. Skinner. "The Burden of Health Care Costs for Patients with Dementia in the Last 5 Years of Life." *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2015; 163(10): 729-736. doi: 10.7326/M15-0381.

Ornstein, K., M. Aldridge, M. Garrido, **R. Gorges**, D. Meier, A. Kelley. "Association between hospice use and depressive symptoms in surviving spouses." *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 175(7): 1138-1146. July 2015.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020-2021 Specialized Training Program in the Demography and Economics of Aging, NIA T32

Summer 2019 Mathematica Summer Fellow

2017-2020 UCANU Health Services Research Training Program, AHRQ T32

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2016-2020 R. Tamara Konetzka

Rebecca J. Gorges

Analysis of causal effects of home- and community-based services as compared with nursing home care for older adults with dementia using the Health and Retirement Survey and Medicaid MAX data.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Spring 2016, 2017 Health Economics and Public Policy. David Meltzer

PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Annual Midwest Health Economics Conference. Paper presentation. Effects of Medicaid Managed Care on Hospitalization Risk Among Dual-Eligibles. September 2020.

- 2019 Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting. Paper presentation. Effects of Medicaid Managed Care on Hospitalization Risk Among Dual-Eligibles. November 2019.

 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting. Poster presentation. Effects of Medicaid Managed Care on Hospitalization of Duals. June 2019.

- 2013 Eastern Economic Association. Annual Conference. Paper presentation. Cohen, E., Gorges, R., Sun, R. "The Effect of Massachusetts Health Care Reform on Level of Intensity of Hospital Care using Finite Mixtures"

- 2012 New York State Economics Association. Annual Conference. Paper presentation. Cohen, E., Gorges, R., Sun, R. "The Effect of Massachusetts Health Care Reform on the Rate of Preventable Hospitalization"

Professional Activities

Ad Hoc Referee, Journal of the American Geriatrics Society; Medical Care Research and Review.

Other Professional Experience

- 2013-2015 Senior Research Analyst, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Care (New York, NY)

- 2004-2013 Chemical Engineer, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., Biopharmaceuticals Division (Albany, NY)
 Licensed Professional Engineer (#087187) in the State of New York