

Abstract

This dissertation deals with the question of whether and to what extent public private partnerships for the provision of public hospital services in accordance with the needs of the population are the right way to improve the economics of the hospital service.

As an introduction to the basic principles of the hospital service, Chapter 2 lists and defines the main conditions. Chapter 3 deals with the new trend towards public private partnerships between public-sector hospitals and private-sector hospital companies under management contracts. The main principles of hospital economics and the relevant institutional economics elements of the property rights and principal/agent theories are presented in Chapter 4. On this basis, Chapter 5 analyses two different hospital management organizations, a classical organizational structure and a public private partnership. Chapter 6 contains an assessment of the economic behaviour of individuals on the basis of various principal/agent problems and the effects on the economics of hospital management. Finally, a critical assessment of public private partnerships for hospital management is given in Chapter 7, together with an outline of possible future approaches to hospital organization.