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Optimizing efficiency gains - A situational analysis of technical efficiency of hospitals in Ghana

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Background:

The main objective of this study was to measure and analyze the technical efficiency of district (Public, Quasi Government, Private and Mission) hospitals in Ghana.

Methodology:

Data Envelopment analysis was used to estimate the in/efficiency of 74 government, 43 mission, 7 private and 6 quasi district hospitals in Ghana.

Results:

Of all district level hospitals assessed 64% were technically efficient. Of these 15 (13%) hospitals were scale inefficient. Quasi-government hospitals had an average TE score of 80.5% and a standard deviation (STD) of 22%, government hospitals 64% and a STD of 24%, mission hospitals 61% and a STD of 23% and private hospitals 43% and a STD of 9%. There is a potential to improve OPD by 27%, admissions by 12%, laboratory services by 19%, reduce beds by 3% nonclinical staff by 2%

Conclusion:

The study has demonstrated the versatility of DEA to policy makers in measuring the inefficiencies among hospitals by ownership. Results serve as a strong guide to health care decision making with practical ways of increasing technical efficiency in the hospital sector.