**The implication of introducing two mutually conflicting Results Based Payment schemes in public hospitals in Macedonia**

**Vladimir Lazarevik, Blasko Kasapinov**

Background

The pace of Results Based Financing reforms as introduced in Macedonia was directly linked to the political changes in the country. Our research was conducted to describe in details all steps in evolution of two mutually conflicting Results Based Financing schemes (DRG and P4P) in Macedonia during the period between 2006-2014.

Study Question

To describe the nature and processes behind implementation of Diagnostic Related Groups and Pay for Performance as results based financing schemes in Macedonian public hospitals.

Methods

We have conducted a series of interviews with officials and key informants at the Ministry of health, Health Insurance Fund, State-owned University Clinics, Medical associations and with the management of the hospitals. Data were collected and reviewed from all available published and unpublished sources.

Resutls

Scaling up of DRG at the national level was enabled over a complex set of interactions between four components of a policy cycle: policy process, context, reform actors and content. International experience, combined with strong political support were essential prerequisites for generating national knowledge and ownership of the reform.

There was no clear and agreed model of the P4P scheme. This has resulted in conflicts between the members of the working groups. There was little or no international experienced and according to the interviewees the ownership of the scheme was limited only to few individuals within the Ministry of health.

Conclusions

The findings from our research show that use of international knowledge combined with strong local leadership and ownership of the new reforms may result in successful implementation of the idea into scaled up national policy for the developing countries.

Health Policy Implications

The example of implementing P4P reforms suggest that fragmentation in the content of the reform, and lack of local ownership in transfer of the knowledge results in resistance and reluctance in implementation of the reform.