

## **The Spanish National Health System under scrutiny**

Enrique Bernal-Delgado, Instituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud, Zaragoza, Spain

Contact: [ebernal.iacs@aragon.es](mailto:ebernal.iacs@aragon.es)

The Atlas assess **Quality** from two perspectives: a) the **uneven exposure of population to healthcare**; and, b) **the way healthcare system performs**.

Several questions, relevant for policy-decision making purposes, are faced:

- *Is access to an appropriate diagnostic or surgical procedure dependant on the place a person lives?*
- *Are the odds of a patient to suffer unneeded treatment - and having an adverse event- different regarding the provider where the person is admitted?*
- *Which is the cost of opportunity -for a society- of providing more services more intensively? Which is the marginal benefit -in health- associated to more intensity of resources compared with the neighboured area?*

### ***What have we learnt?***

With regard to **the influence of the place where people lives**, although the SNHS was conceived as a **universal compulsory insurance system**, planned to **mitigate barriers to access** (primary care oriented with a mandatory gate-keeping role, negligible amount of co-payment, funded by taxes, and deeply decentralised) and **developed without incentives for “doing more”** (insignificant FFS payment, healthcare professional paid by salary and providers funded in a more or less retrospective way) **Geographic Variations are vast**, both in effective services, supply sensitive services or preference-sensitive services.

**With regard to the way providers perform**, there is **huge variation in health outcomes, even though Quality Improvement Programs have been developed** during the last decade around the country, and Quality is considered in the annual objectives of every single provider.

Sharing results, impressions and debate about the underlying factors influencing and the implications for Health Policy and Management are the goals of the presentation.