

# Health Care Funding NEWS

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## Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural Health Care Funding newsletter. Our purpose is to sum up the latest news and events regarding health care funding issues from Canada and abroad. This newsletter is intended to compliment our website, [www.hospitalfunding.ca](http://www.hospitalfunding.ca), which was launched in June 2011. The website provides in-depth analysis of funding issues from three perspectives, that of the policymaker, the researcher, and the administrator. Plus, we maintain listings of upcoming events and web links of interest. Please visit! And feel free to contact us ([editor@hospitalfunding.ca](mailto:editor@hospitalfunding.ca)) with suggestions for content or improvement.



## Manitoba meeting on activity based funding

The Manitoba government recently held a meeting in Winnipeg with researchers and policymakers to begin to explore its options in funding hospitals. Jason Sutherland, the editor of Health Care Funding News, presented on activity-based funding (ABF) as an alternative to the global budgeting program currently in use.

Dr. Sutherland cautioned Manitoba to consider several issues before initiating ABF policy. Access, for example, may be a greater issue under ABF given the rural nature of the province and its sparse population. Price setting using cost data from other provinces may also have unintended consequences to the provision of health care.

View the presentation at [www.hospitalfunding.ca/funding-types/presentations](http://www.hospitalfunding.ca/funding-types/presentations).

Photo: Andrew Filer

Visit our website at [www.hospitalfunding.ca](http://www.hospitalfunding.ca)

## Funding policies in post-acute care

The Canadian Health Services Research Foundation released a new paper on funding alternatives and challenges associated with post-acute care. The paper argues that the Canadian post-acute care sector is incredibly fragmented, lacking standardized definitions of care and exhibiting a variety of public and private providers and differing levels of care intensities. This fragmentation, combined with the lack of evidence-based care guidelines, leads to inappropriate utilization of care and backlogs of patients waiting for discharge from acute care facilities (i.e., alternate level of care patients).

Improving the funding system in post-acute care faces considerable challenges, not the least of which is the lack of reliable and timely data. Data are a crucial component of any funding system, not just for evaluation but also for price setting.

Check out the full report at the CHSRF website at [www.chsrf.ca](http://www.chsrf.ca).

### Upcoming events

[Policy Options for the Financial Sustainability of Healthcare Systems in Canada and Abroad](#)

Canadian Health Services Research Foundation

Toronto, ON | July 10, 2011

[Transforming Health & Economics](#)  
8th World Congress on Health Economics

Toronto, ON | July 10-13, 2011

[Each Patient Counts](#)  
27th Patient Classification Systems International Conference

Montreal, PQ | Oct 19-22, 2011

## Policy options for the financial sustainability of health care systems in Canada and abroad

The Canadian Health Services Research Foundation will host a pre-conference event to the 8th World Congress on Health Economics in Toronto, Ontario on July 10, 2011. The event will focus on options for pharmaceutical pricing, physician and hospital payment, and revenue generation. Trafford Crump, co-editor of [www.hospitalfunding.ca](http://www.hospitalfunding.ca), will present on funding options for improving the coordination of care across acute and post-acute settings.

## Studying activity-based funding in British Columbia

Activity based funding (ABF) initiatives for funding hospital care are growing in popularity across Canada. British Columbia has recently implemented the most ambitious ABF initiative, dedicating \$250 million to increase surgical capacity across the province. A study proposal aimed at investigating the effects of this initiative was recently published in BMC Health Services Research. The study will specifically examine the effects of ABF on surgical types, volume, and quality in BC hospitals. Read the entire proposal at BMC at [www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/11/150](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/11/150).

This newsletter was produced by the editorial team of [www.hospitalfunding.ca](http://www.hospitalfunding.ca), a central, reliable and impartial resource for literature, news and discussion regarding activity-based hospital funding policies in Canada and internationally.

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