

# Healthcare Policy and Practice in Ireland

## SAR HS 425

**Lecturer:** Conor Keegan

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**Class Times:** Tuesdays, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm (1<sup>st</sup> half of program)  
Fridays, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (2<sup>nd</sup> half of program)

### Course Overview

This course introduces students to the organisation, delivery and financing of healthcare in Ireland and Europe. Initially, students will be introduced to the theoretical aspects of healthcare policy making and implementation, supplemented by practical examples and case studies. Attention will then be placed on the role of public health, human resources, financing and cost-effectiveness analysis in healthcare systems. The influence of the recent economic crisis, and current reform strategies, will be discussed in the context of healthcare policy and practice in Ireland.

### Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Analyse factors that influence the development of healthcare policy and evaluate different perspectives on the policy-making process;
- Discuss conditions of the physical environment, social and behavioural factors that influence health;
- Discuss the role of prevention and health promotion in the Irish healthcare system and the key themes associated with recent healthcare strategies;
- Discuss key issues in the delivery of healthcare related to access, cost, and quality;
- Describe the various influences on levels of healthcare expenditure;
- Discuss the roles of the major regulatory bodies that govern health care; the potential of and limitations on healthcare reform.
- Understand the role of cost-effectiveness as a tool for resource allocation within health systems.

### Teaching Methodology

Class time will be used for a combination of lectures, discussions, group exercises, and presentations. Students will be called on to explain readings and concepts, to offer analysis of cases and topics, or to offer opinions. Students will be given a 20/25 minute break over the course of each three-hour lecture.

### Assignments and Grading

Further details on the assignments will be distributed during lectures and discussed. Opportunities for questions about and clarification of all the assignments will be given during the course. Your grade for the course will be based on your work as follows:

Presentation:	20%
Essay:	40%
Final Examination:	40%

The case presentation will be given during lectures. Students should pick a topic from the Lecture Outline that interests them. Each student will be assigned a specific day depending on the topic chosen. The presentation should last 10-15 minutes and students should submit a written summary of the presentation which will be graded, along with the presentation itself.

Essay titles are distributed at the end of week three. The essay should be approximately 2,000 words long. Essay requirements will be distributed with the titles.

For the exam you are required to answer three questions – excluding the topic on which you did your essay.

### **Required Texts (one of the following)**

- Brady, A-M (2010) Leadership & Management in the Irish Health Service. Dublin: Gill & MacMillan
- Burke S (2009) Irish Apartheid: Healthcare Inequality in Ireland. Dublin: New Island

### **Key online resources**

- McDaid D, Wiley M, Maresso A and Mossialos E. Ireland: Health system review. Health Systems in Transition, 2009; 11(4): 1 – 268  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/85306/E92928.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/85306/E92928.pdf)
- WHO 2007. Everybody business: strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action.  
[http://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](http://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)
- OECD 2010. Health Working Papers No. 51: Effective ways to realise policy reforms in health systems (Author Jeremy Hurst). [http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/effective-ways-to-realise-policy-reforms-in-health-systems\\_5kmh37714n9x-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/effective-ways-to-realise-policy-reforms-in-health-systems_5kmh37714n9x-en)

### **Online books (available via DCU library)**

Leon DA and Gill Walt (eds) 2009, Poverty, inequality, and health- an international perspective, Oxford Scholarship Online  
<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/content/publichealthepidemiology/9780192631961/toc.html?q=Poverty,inequality,health>

Roberts, M; Hsiao, W; Berman, P; Reich, M 2009, Getting health reform right, Oxford Scholarship Online.  
<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/content/publichealthepidemiology/9780195371505/toc.html?q=Gettinghealthreform>

Heymann, Jody, Clyde Hertzman, Morris L. Barer, and Robert G. Evans. 2006, Healthier societies- from analysis to action, Oxford University Press Oxford  
<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/private/content/publichealthepidemiology/9780195179200/p013.html>

Wilkinson R G and Michael Marmot (eds) 2005, Social determinants of health, Oxford University Press. Oxford Scholarship Online: Oxford.  
<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/content/publichealthepidemiology/9780198565895/toc.html?q=Socialdeterminantshealth>

For additional reading see the supplementary reading list.

### **Plagiarism**

It is every student's responsibility to read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be "...expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean."

**Note: Students must retain an electronic copy of all work submitted for assessment.**

### **Lecture Schedule**

<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assessment activities</b>
Lecture 1	Module introduction and overview: Health and health policy analysis; Introduction to Irish healthcare policy and practice	
Lecture 2	The history of health policy and practice in Ireland	
Lecture 3	Policy-making theories and processes: applied to Ireland	Essay titles distributed
Lecture 4	Public health and health promotion policy in Ireland	
Lecture 5	The comparative perspective in policy analysis; comparing health reform strategies (Guest Lecturer)	
Lecture 6	Financing healthcare	
	<b>Mid-semester break</b>	
Lecture 7	Student presentations	
Lecture 8	Human resources in healthcare (Guest Lecturer)	
Lecture 9	Student presentations	
Lecture 10	The Irish Pharmaceutical market (Guest Lecturer)	Essay submission date
Lecture 11	Cost-effectiveness in healthcare	
Lecture 12	Conclusions. Essay feedback. Exam preparation	
Final	Final Examination	Exam

## Supplementary reading

### Irish policy documents

Commission on patient safety and quality assurance. 2008. Building a Culture of Patient Safety - Report of the Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance.

<http://www.cpsqa.ie/publications/pdf/patientsafety.pdf>

Dept. of Health (2001) Primary care- a new direction. Dublin: Stationery Office.

<http://www.ncnm.ie/files/publications/Primary%20care%20strategy.pdf>

Dept. of Health (2006) A Vision for Change- Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy [http://www.dohc.ie/publications/vision\\_for\\_change.html](http://www.dohc.ie/publications/vision_for_change.html)

Dept. of Health (2001) Quality and fairness- a health system for you. Dublin: Stationery Office [http://www.dohc.ie/publications/quality\\_and\\_fairness.html](http://www.dohc.ie/publications/quality_and_fairness.html)

Health Service Executive 2006. Transformation programme 2007-2010.

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Publications/corporate/transformation.pdf>

Dept. of Health (2012) Future Health: A Strategic Framework for Reform of the Health Service. [http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/Future\\_Health.pdf?direct=1](http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/Future_Health.pdf?direct=1)

Dept. of Health (2013) The Establishment of Hospital Groups as a Transition to Independent Hospital Trusts. <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/IndHospTrusts.pdf>

Dept. of Health (2014) The Path to Universal Healthcare: White Paper on Universal Health Insurance.

<http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/White-Paper-Final-version-1-April-2014.pdf>

### Supplementary Texts

Abel-Smith B (1994). An introduction to health policy, planning and financing. UK: Longman.

Barker C (1996). The Health Care Policy Process. London: Sage.

Barrington R (1987) Health, Medicine and Politics in Ireland 1900-1970. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration.

Coghlan D & McAluliffe E (2003) Changing Healthcare Organisations. Dublin: Blackhall.

Coulter A & Ham C (2000) The Global Challenge of Health Care Rationing. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Drummond MF, O'Brien B, Stoddart GL & Torrance GW (1997) Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed New York: Oxford University Press.

Fahey T (1995) Health and Social Care Implications of Population Ageing in Ireland, 1991-2011. Dublin: National Council for the Elderly.

- Gilmore N (2005) *Clearing the Air: The Battle Over the Smoking Ban*. Dublin: Liberties Press.
- Hunter D J (2008) *The Health Debate: Policy and Politics in the Twenty-first Century*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Kent Buse, Nicholas Mays & Gill Walt: (2010) *Making Health Policy: Understanding Public Health*, London: OUP.
- Leahy A and Wiley MM (1998) *The Irish Health System in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Dublin: Oak Tree.
- McAuliffe E and Joyce L (1998) *A Healthier Future? Managing healthcare in Ireland*. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration
- McCluskey, D. (2006) *Health Policy and Practice in Ireland*. Dublin: UCD Press.
- McLaughlin (2007) *Health Policy Analysis: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Massachusetts: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc.
- Mc Pake B & Normand C (2008) *Health Economics: An International Perspective*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) Abingdon: Routledge. ISBN-10: 0415391326
- Nolan B (1993) *Charging for Public Health Services in Ireland: Why and how?* Dublin: ESRI
- O'Connor S (2010). *Without consent*. Dublin: Poolbeg.
- O'Donovan O & Glavanis-Grantham K (2008) *Power, Politics and Pharmaceuticals: Drug Regulation in Ireland in a Global Context*. Cork: Cork University Press.
- Walt G. (1994) *Health Policy: An introduction to process and power. People, Governments and International agencies – who drives policy and how is it made*. Witwatersrand University Press.
- OECD 2010: *Health care systems: efficiency and policy settings*  
[http://www.oecd.org/document/39/0,3746,en\\_2649\\_33733\\_46491431\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/39/0,3746,en_2649_33733_46491431_1_1_1_1,00.html)
- Rechel B, Dubois C-A, McKee M 2006, *Human Resources for Health in Europe*, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies <http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E87923.pdf>
- Tussing A D & Wren M A (2006) *How Ireland Cares: The case for health care reform*. Dublin: New Ireland.
- Walt G 1994 *Health policy: an introduction to process and power*. Johannesburg : London ; Atlantic Highlands, N.J : Witwatersrand University Press ; Zed Books
- Wren, M. (2003) *Unhealthy State: Anatomy of a Sick Society*. Dublin: New Island.

### **Key websites**

- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies: Country health system profiles  
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home/projects/observatory/publications/health-system-profiles-hits/full-list-of-hits>
- Health Information and Quality Authority [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie)
- Health Service Executive [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)
- Department of Health <http://health.gov.ie>