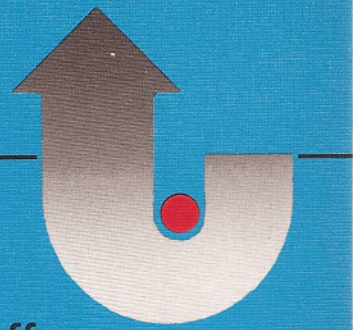


Health Systems  
Research



D. Schwefel H. Zöllner P. Potthoff (Eds.)

**Costs and Effects  
of Managing Chronic  
Psychotic Patients**



Springer-Verlag

Detlef Schwefel Herbert Zöllner  
Peter Potthoff (Eds.)

# Costs and Effects of Managing Chronic Psychotic Patients

With 21 Figures and 93 Tables



Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York  
London Paris Tokyo

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ISBN 3-540-18867-3 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York  
ISBN 0-387-18867-3 Springer-Verlag New York Berlin Heidelberg

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication-Data

Costs and effects of managing chronic psychotic patients. (Health systems research) 1. Psychiatric hospital care - Cost effectiveness. 2. Mentally ill - Care - Cost effectiveness. I. Schwefel, Detlef. II. Zöllner, Herbert. III. Potthoff, Peter. RA790.5.C675 1988 338.4'33622 88-6564  
ISBN 0-387-18867-3 (U.S.)

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Printed in Germany

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Typesetting and Bookbinding: Appl, Wemding. Printing: aprinta, Wemding  
2119/3145-543210

## Preface

Since the early 1970s, delivery of care to people who are considered to suffer from chronic psychotic disturbances has been at a crossroads. In 1983, the European Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO), within its health economics programme, encouraged international research on the economic implications of alternative strategies of care for those patients. Originally, it was intended to compare at least two or more strategies of managing chronic psychotics, especially strategies which place different emphasis on inpatient and outpatient care.

Instead of designing a fully coordinated, multinational, multi-centre study based on a mutually agreed on study protocol, we decided on the following:

- To meet with researchers interested in the social, psychological, and economic features of health care for chronic psychotic patients
- To stimulate ongoing research projects or to initiate new ones
- To discuss quite different approaches from international and interdisciplinary points of view
- To review and revise the diversified end products of such an open research process

For this purpose, we outlined a broad range of topics which could be included in the study:

- Methodological problems of evaluation in this field
- Social and economic implications of psychiatric deinstitutionalization
- Scenarios of various degrees of deinstitutionalization
- Assessment of (hospital) costs of the treatment for chronic schizophrenic and other psychotic patients
- Public and private costs of the main treatment strategies
- Time-expenditure analyses of chronic psychotic patients

These topics were to be major themes of our study, but as we knew that certainly many other areas of research would also be of interest in a study of the arguments for and approaches to assessing or to strengthening the cost-effectiveness of managing chronic psy-

chotic patients, we were eager to motivate as many study participants as possible to contribute to our common undertaking.

We chose an 'open research strategy' - contrary to a streamlined multicentre study - because we believe that the field of study needs broad exploration first and then quite different approaches and points of view in terms of units of observation, levels of spatial aggregation, and types of analyses. It is our prejudice that a bundle of wild flowers is nicer than a bunch of mechanically produced or even cloned tulips. Last but not least, we know that we do need many different arguments in the fight for more efficiency and effectiveness, including the one concerned with more humanity in the management of chronic patients.

The first drafts of most contributions in this volume were originally presented at our workshop on 'Cost-effectiveness of managing chronic psychotic patients' held in Munich, 16-18 December 1985, and jointly organized by the Gesellschaft für Strahlen- und Umweltforschung (GSF) and the Regional Office for Europe of WHO. The two background papers introducing the volume comprise a report on a first WHO meeting, which took place in Mannheim, May 2-4, 1983, and at which we tried to develop terms of reference for our study, as well as the report from our Munich workshop. The other 13 papers deal, from different viewpoints, with some problems of cost and effectiveness of (alternative) strategies of psychiatric care. They represent reports spanning a wide range of nations from many parts of Europe and abroad. Besides their function of reporting on national particularities, the papers can be regarded as examples of different approaches to delivering

**Table 1.** Some characteristics of the 13 chapters in this book

Authors	Units of observation			Level of spatial aggregation			Type of analysis		
	Systems	Institutions	Individuals	National	Regional	Institutional	Theory/ methodology	Descriptive/ cross-sectional	Historical/ longitudinal
Barrelet et al.			×			×		×	
Bridges et al.			×			×			×
Frank et al.	×			×					×
Kastrup et al.			×	×					×
Marinoni et al.			×		×				×
McKechnie et al.		×				×		×	
Ozámiz et al.	×				×			×	
Potthoff et al.			×			×		×	
Sabatini et al.							×		
Walsh et al.	×			×					×
Wiersma et al.			×		×				×
Williams et al.			×		×				×
Yfantopolous		×		×				×	

psychiatric care to the chronically ill and of studies to evaluate the socioeconomic features of this care.

The contributions may be classified according to several dimensions:

- Unit of observation: systems, institutional, and individual approaches
- Level of spatial aggregation: national, regional, and institutional approaches
- Type of analysis: theoretical/methodological, descriptive/cross-sectional, and historical/longitudinal approaches

Since every contribution can fall into more than one of these categories, a classification must be a complex and multidimensional one. A tentative classification can be found in Table 1 of this preface. For the purpose of structuring the book, however, we have chosen an arrangement that follows mainly pragmatic lines. We apologize for this simplification, inevitable as it may be.

The editors of this volume wish to express their thanks to the authors and participants of the workshop, especially for their patience in carrying on the interdisciplinary dialogue between economists, psychiatrists, social scientists, and politicians, and for their constructive contributions to the mutual reviews of the papers.

Munich, April 1988

D. Schwefel  
H. Zöllner  
P. Potthoff

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