

Accepted Manuscript

Beyond DRG: The effect of socio-economic indicators on inpatient resource allocation in Australia

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PII: S2211-8837(18)30173-4
DOI: [10.1016/j.hlpt.2018.07.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hlpt.2018.07.001)
Reference: HLPT 296



To appear in: *Health Policy and Technology*

Received date: 13 November 2017
Revised date: 24 June 2018
Accepted date: 14 July 2018

Please cite this article as: Renata Hasanova , Emmanouil Mentzakis , Francesco Paolucci , Amir Shmueli , Beyond DRG: The effect of socio-economic indicators on inpatient resource allocation in Australia, *Health Policy and Technology* (2018), doi: [10.1016/j.hlpt.2018.07.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hlpt.2018.07.001)

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Research highlights

- The main danger of DRG payment to hospitals is selection against high-risk patients.
- Heterogeneity by SES within DRG groups is not accounted by the Australian reform.
- We find significant effects of the SES variables on the use of inpatient resources as the lower the SES the longer the length of stay.
- We recommend that SES variables be included in the hospitals' reimbursement formula

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