



Using Credit Cards to Streamline the Use of Resources

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Dear Editor,

Health organizations are one of the most important organizations of every country. The responsibility and duty of such organizations are to supply, maintain, and improve the individuals of society. The hospital as a health organization has long been one of the most important medical service providers.¹ Increasing health system costs all over the world have become a main concern of health system managers and decision makers.²

The health system of Iran, like others, faces the challenge of major increases in costs. While the total index of expenses in Iran has become 30 times greater in the past 20 years, expenses in the health sector have increased to a figure 71 times higher.³ One noteworthy point is that hospitals in which are regarded as the biggest and the most expensive operational unit in healthcare organization including 50% of the total costs and allocating about 80% of educated medical courses staffs to themselves.¹

Evidently, all sectors of the health system are affected by economic problems, some of which originate in the structural and internal problems of each section. Some other health sections have problems imposed upon them, and some problems originate from the macroeconomic policies of the health system.⁴ According to a WHO report, general hospitals allocate 80% of health system resources to themselves, while producing only 20% of the output of this section.⁵ Although hospitals allocate high expenses to themselves, a large quota of costs occurring in hospitals are due to a lack of good performance. Some factors, such as the inappropriate admission of patients, misallocation of sources, reworking and other factors, play significant roles in creating costs.⁶

One way to increase costs is to improperly use or waste resources. To solve this problem, it is suggested that the amount of supplies required in hospital sectors and units over a one-month period be estimated based on the statistics,

and then the costs can be better determined. The estimated amount should then be given to section managers in the form of a credit card. Purchasing the necessary materials should be delegated to the officials and relevant authorities on a monthly basis, and the surplus should be distributed to staff members or different wards as encouragement. This can be considered as a motivation strategy for individual efficient use of resources.

Authors' Contributions

All authors contributed equally to this research.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest..

Ethical Approval

Not applicable.

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