

Contractual agreement with hospital staff delivering hospital care: case study of the MRI center of Shariati hospital

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Original Article

Abstract

Introduction: Shariati MRI center located in Esfahan began producing services in 21 July 2011. The responsibility of producing services was delegated to the radiology staff based on a contractual agreement between hospital executives and radiology department staff. We aimed to assess to what extent this method had been successful in improving efficiency comparing to a similar public MRI center and outsourcing alternative.

Methods: A case study approach was used. We collected quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive picture of the experience and forthcoming challenges. By using quantitative data, we measured unit cost of services and the cost-revenue ratio of the MRI center. Relevant documents and reports were reviewed and key peoples were also interviewed for understanding potential challenges.

Results: The ratio of the cost to the revenue of the MRI center was 48% without the equipment depreciation and 60% including depreciation. The unit cost of the MRI center of Shariati hospital was 10% lower than outsourcing alternative and 35% lower than a similar public MRI center managing by governmental system. Nevertheless, qualitative analysis showed that the MRI center may have some challenges in the long-term period.

Discussion and Conclusion: Despite the advantages of the new method, some important challenges such as physician's issues, coordination between different hospital departments and delegating more authorities must be considered in long-term period.

Key words: Purchasing, Contracting, Outsourcing, Efficiency, MRI

Citation: Joudaki H, Rashidian A, Soorani H, Koochi H, Geraili B. **Contractual agreement with hospital staff delivering hospital care: case study of the MRI center of Shariati hospital.** J Manag Med Sci 2015; 2(2): 94-101

Received: 31/01/2015

Accepted: 13/09/2015

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