

Public–private health partnerships in Portugal: critical analysis.

ABSTRACT

Further to the problems and challenges imposed to the New Public Management we have been faced with the increase of new public management instruments, notably the Public Private Partnerships (“PPP”). In Portugal, the PPP started to stand out in the 90’s. On the health sector, the partnership model which was adopted in Portugal assumed a relevant particularity in relation to others by including on the model the operation of clinical/medical services.

The decision underneath the choice of this type of instrument in Portugal was made without the existence, at that time, of any data which supported/confirmed the positive gains/results of the above mentioned model. In fact, the choice was based on the forecasted benefits, namely, the effectiveness and efficiency gains related to private management and the reduction of the public expenditure.

This work aims primarily at understanding if in Portugal the “hospitalar” PPPs are a well succeeded new public management instrument. In this sense, we have critically analyzed the procedures for the launch of these PPP, its existing model and its perceived success, on the view of experts of the area, envisaging bringing a valid contribution to the discussion of this subject.

Public-private partnership, Portugal, health, evaluation, New Public Management