

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910960410603321
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Titolo	Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme : : Improving Financial Sustainability Based on Expenditure Review / / Huihui Wang
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : The World Bank, , 2017
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (68 pages)
Collana	World Bank Studies
Disciplina	368.42
Soggetti	Efficiency Expenditure Control Financial Sustainability Ghana Health Insurance Ghana
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Front Cover -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- About the Authors -- Abbreviations -- Chapter 1 Introduction -- Background -- Objective -- Methodology and Data -- Organization of the Book -- Notes -- Chapter 2 The Country Context and Key Features of the Ghanaian Health Sector -- Country Context -- Health Outcomes -- Health Services -- Health Service Delivery System -- Health Financing System -- Notes -- Chapter 3 NHIS Overview -- Basic Features -- NHIS's Role in Health Care Financing -- Notes -- Chapter 4 NHIS Claims-Expenditure Review -- Trends in NHIS Claims Expenditures over Time -- Overview of Claims Expenditures in the Volta Region -- Claims Expenditure Distribution and Variation, by Provider -- Claims Expenditure Distribution and Variation, by Member Characteristics -- Examples of Potential Cost Saving Areas -- Summary -- Note -- Chapter 5 Factors Affecting Level and Efficiency of Claims Expenditures -- Behaviors of Service Providers and NHIS Members -- NHIA Internal Management -- Chapter 6 Designing Policies for Efficient Spending -- Recommendations -- Areas for Further Analytical Work -- Boxes -- Box 3.1NHIS Exclusions -- Box 3.2NHIA Accreditation Criteria -- Box

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2003 as a major vehicle to achieve the country's commitment of Universal Health Coverage. The government has earmarked value-added tax to finance NHIS in addition to deduction from Social Security Trust (SSNIT) and premium payment. However, the scheme has been running under deficit since 2009 due to expansion of coverage, increase in service use, and surge in expenditure. Consequently, Ghana National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) had to reduce investment fund, borrow loans and delay claims reimbursement to providers in order to fill the gap. This study aimed to provide policy recommendations on how to improve efficiency and financial sustainability of NHIS based on health sector expenditure and NHIS claims expenditure review. The analysis started with an overall health sector expenditure review, zoomed into NHIS claims expenditure in Volta region as a miniature for the scheme, and followed by identification of factors affecting level and efficiency of expenditure. This study is the first attempt to undertake systematic in-depth analysis of NHIS claims expenditure. Based on the study findings, it is recommended that NHIS establish a stronger expenditure control system in place for long-term sustainability. The majority of NHIS claims expenditure is for outpatient consultations, district hospitals and above, certain member groups (e.g., informal group, members with more than five visits in a year). These distribution patterns are closely related to NHIS design features that encourages expenditure surge. For example, year-round open registration boosted adverse selection during enrollment, essentially fee-for-service provider mechanisms incentivized oversupply but not better quality and cost-effectiveness, and zero patient cost-sharing by patients reduced prudence in seeking care and caused overuse. Moreover, NHIA is not equipped to control expenditure or monitor effect of cost-containment policies. The claims processing system is mostly manual and does not collect information on service delivery and results. No mechanisms exist to monitor and correct providers' abnormal behaviors, as well as engage NHIS members for and engaging members for information verification, case management and prevention.

2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910557373103321
Autore	Pomares Jorge
Titolo	Visual Servoing in Robotics
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Basel, Switzerland, : MDPI - Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, 2021
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (166 p.)
Soggetti	Technology: general issues
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	<p>Visual servoing is a well-known approach to guide robots using visual information. Image processing, robotics, and control theory are combined in order to control the motion of a robot depending on the visual information extracted from the images captured by one or several cameras. With respect to vision issues, a number of issues are currently being addressed by ongoing research, such as the use of different types of image features (or different types of cameras such as RGBD cameras), image processing at high velocity, and convergence properties. As shown in this book, the use of new control schemes allows the system to behave more robustly, efficiently, or compliantly, with fewer delays. Related issues such as optimal and robust approaches, direct control, path tracking, or sensor fusion are also addressed. Additionally, we can currently find visual servoing systems being applied in a number of different domains. This book considers various aspects of visual servoing systems, such as the design of new strategies for their application to parallel robots, mobile manipulators, teleoperation, and the application of this type of control system in new areas.</p>

3. Record Nr.	UNINA9910160252803321
Titolo	Journal of aggression, maltreatment & trauma
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Binghamton, NY], : Haworth Maltreatment & Trauma Press Philadelphia, PA, : Taylor & Francis Group
ISSN	1545-083X
Disciplina	616.85
Soggetti	Violence Offenses against the person Aggression Crime Victims Stress Disorders, Post-Traumatic Periodical Periodicals.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Periodico
Note generali	Refereed/Peer-reviewed