



Dear Sir/Madam,

Most patients expect to receive the same standard of care no matter where they live or access the health care system. Health care systems are explicitly or implicitly required to guarantee the same kind of care irrespective of the geographical location. But unwarranted variations remain a fact in all health care systems across the world. In order to improve both quality and efficiency of care we are constantly challenged to measure and to address these variations. So far, however, publications in this field have yet to find a specific medium.

This is why we would like to introduce the new international peer-reviewed journal "Research in Health Services & Regions – Methods, Results, Implementation", published by Springer Nature. "Research in Health Services & Regions (RHSR)" aims to provide a forum for scientists focusing on health services research in and for regions. Apart from scientific papers on methods and results it also invites reports on health policy interventions or local initiatives designed to improve care based on insights from geospatial comparisons.

All publications in RHSR will be open access, published under a Creative Commons license with authors retaining the copyright of their papers. RHSR is sponsored by the Central Research Institute for Ambulatory Health Care in the Federal Republic of Germany (see below) which covers the publication costs and article processing charges for up to 30 papers p.a.. No article processing charges or fees apply for authors. All published papers are made freely and permanently accessible online, without any subscription charges or registration barriers, providing immediate and equitable access to information. According to a white paper published by Springer, open access content is 1,6x more cited and 4x more downloaded than non-open access ones. It also has a greater impact, generating up to 2,5x more altmetric attention, 1,9x more news mentions, and 1,2x more policy mentions.

We are now open for submissions! We welcome sound research that is directly relevant to geographical variation in health care, benchmarking based on best practices, and improvements in the health system that address regional specificities. We are also interested in reports on implementation issues of relevant policy initiatives. Visit our website and get to know more about our aims and scope at <https://www.springer.com/journal/43999>. Please feel free to forward this information to colleagues or to make it available on your website and communication channels.

An international team of renowned specialists will contribute as members of the editorial board and as peer-reviewers.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

The editors-in-chief,

Stef Groenewoud (Radboud Institute for Health Sciences, Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

Daniela Koller (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany)

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About Zi

Central Research Institute for Ambulatory Health Care in the Federal Republic of Germany (Zentralinstitut für die kassenärztliche Versorgung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Zi) is a not-for-profit foundation under civil law, created in 1973 by the 17 regional associations of statutory health insurance physicians and the Federal Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in Germany. The institute is financed by the 17 regional associations and is based in Berlin, Germany.

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