Comparative performance of UK PFI and non-PFI hospitals


Abstract
Since the first PFI hospital was established in 1994, many debates centred on the value for money and risk transfer in PFIs. Little concern is shown with PFI hospitals’ performance in delivering healthcare. Exploratory research was carried out to compare PFI with non-PFI hospital performance. Five performance indicators were analysed to compare differences between PFI and non-PFI hospitals, namely the length of waiting, the length of stay, MRSA infection rate, *C* difficile infection rate and patient experience. Data was collected from various government bodies. The results show that only some indexes measuring patient experience emerge statistically significant. This leads to a conclusion that PFI hospitals may not perform better than non-PFI hospitals but they are not worse than non-PFI hospitals in the delivery of services. However, future research needs to pay attention to reliability and validity of data sets currently available to undertake comparison.

Keywords: PFI, procurement, hospital, healthcare service, healthcare performance