

Convention on Health Analysis and Management

CHAM 2015

Does Open Health Disrupt Health Policy?

Bernard Accoyer, Catherine Deroche, Claude Évin, Olivier Véran
Moderator: Elisabeth Hubert

1. Open health, an advantage in tackling challenges

The system faces five challenges that health professionals have to tackle:

- Economic challenges, for example the rapid growth of national health expenditure targets (ONDAM);
- Epidemiological challenges and particularly the surge in chronic diseases or number of polypathological patients;
- Regional development challenges and finding solutions for regions with inadequate health care provision;
- Democratic challenges, mainly to do with patient information;
- Technological and innovation-related challenges.

In the face of these challenges, open health is a definite advantage.

2. Capacity for experimentation

Legislation should permit a wider field of experimentation, to find solutions for regions with inadequate health care provision. It is more than ever necessary to open the field of possibilities and encourage experimentation.

3. Political stance

Politics is largely absent from fundamental debates about health. Politicians find it difficult to take a stance given the challenges and social changes underway. They must, however, avoid being absent from the issues. To do so, to ensure they have pertinent input, they should not claim to have the answers themselves but should rely on experts in the relevant fields. Politicians must trust the people on the ground and assess the efficacy of existing legislation before going further.

4. Targeted prevention thanks to open health: necessary State regulation

Open health and open data permits such fine processing of data that it becomes possible to issue targeted messages aimed at strengthening prevention. In this field, the State must play a regulating role, to prevent this knowledge from being used for commercial purposes, particularly for risk selection and insurability decisions.

5. The purpose of public authorities: to support and encourage innovation

Ultimately, policymakers must work with the players involved. They must also leave them alone, abandon their conservative posture and first and foremost support innovation in the health field. Policymakers should be guided by the conclusions of experimentation, and set aside political divisions and partisan interests. They should be guided by conclusions based on objective data.