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Managed Care And Technology Diffusion: The Case Of MRI

[Laurence C. Baker](#) and [Susan K. Wheeler](#)

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Laurence Baker is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Research and Policy at Stanford University in California and a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Susan Wheeler is a social science research assistant at Stanford and a research health science specialist at the Palo Alto Department of Veterans Affairs.

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Abstract

ABSTRACT:

A growing body of evidence suggests that managed care can reduce overall health care costs but provides little insight into how this could happen. One possibility is that managed care influences the adoption of new medical technologies. In examining the relationship between health maintenance organization (HMO) activity and market-level availability and use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), we find that high HMO market share is associated with low levels of MRI availability and use. This suggests that managed care may be able to reduce health care costs by influencing the adoption and use of new medical equipment and technologies.

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HealthAffairs

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F 301 654 2845

customerservice@healthaffairs.org

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