

# Supplemental Health Insurance and the Use of Mental Health Services in Canada.

Department of Economics  
Visiting Speaker: Dr. Luc Clair  
Sept. 8, 2017 3:00-4:30 P.M.  
Arts & Admin Bldg. Rm A1049

This event is open to the public.  
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Abstract: The effective treatment of mental illness may require combining community-based services, such as psychologists and social workers, with prescription medications. The failure Canada's system of public health insurance to complementary services, such as prescription drugs, may reduce their utilization and, thereby, compromise access to necessary medical services. This paper investigates the role of supplementary insurance plans in the utilization of prescription drugs for mental illness and mental health service providers. This analysis finds that: (1) access to supplemental private insurance affects the utilization of all types of medication; (2) conditional on having used a mental health pharmaceutical, individuals with supplementary insurance are more likely to use a higher number of medications than those without insurance; and (3) the lack of private supplemental insurance may act as a barrier for some individuals to access important mental health goods and services.

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Bio: Dr. Luc Clair is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Winnipeg and a Principal Investigator at the Canadian Centre for Agri-Food Research in Health and Medicine. His current research looks at the economic impact of health food products from two perspectives: the impact on health and the impact on the agricultural industry. His other research interests include health care equity and the statistical methods for analyzing survey data. Dr. Clair received his PhD in Economics from McMaster University in June of 2017 and he recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Department of Economics at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

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