

Appendix 1

The Switcher group

From the total group of 10,769 Switchers, during the period 2006 – 2011, 6,224 patients switched one time; 2,992 patients switched two times (= back to their first type of GP); 1,282 patients switched three times; 241 patients switched four times and 30 patients switched five times. From the Switchers group that started with a CAM GP, 69.3% ends up with a CON GP. From the Switchers group that started with a CON GP, 70.5% ends up with a CAM GP. As a result the total percentages of CAM patients and CON patients hardly change.

When we analyze the changes in compulsory costs after switching in the subgroup that switched only one time, the total compulsory costs after switching are higher, independent of the direction of the switch. Switching from a CON to a CAM GP results in 337 Euros higher costs ($p < 0.001$), switching from a CAM to a CON GP results in 372 Euros higher costs ($p < 0.001$). After correction for observed differences between the groups by means of linear regression analyses, switching from a CON to a CAM GP results in 34 Euros lower costs (not significant: $p = 0.83$) and switching from a CAM to a CON GP results in 360 Euros higher costs ($p < 0.079$).

When we analyze the changes in supplementary costs after switching in the subgroup that switched only one time, we see that switching from a CON to a CAM GP results in 23 Euros higher costs ($p < 0.001$), and that switching from a CAM to a CON GP results in 1 Euro lower costs (not significant: $p = 0.78$). After correction for observed differences between the groups by means of linear regression analyses, switching from a CON to a CAM GP results in 1 Euro higher costs (not significant: $p = 0.816$) and switching from a CAM to a CON GP results in 2 Euros higher costs (not significant: $p = 0.803$).

Appendix 2

Table 4. Estimated differences in mean annual total compulsory and supplementary insurance costs: CAM patients compared to CON patients (loglinear regression model)

	Compulsory insurance costs					Supplementary insurance costs
	Total	GP	Pharmaceutical	Hospital	Paramedic	
All ages	-.114***	-.121***	-.281***	-.185***	.028**	.496***
0-24	-.071***	-.018**	-.169***	-.152***	.017	.344***
25-49	-.088***	-0.14**	-.267***	-.153***	.021*	.433***
50-74	-.173***	-.025***	-.418***	-.220***	.036*	.653***
75+	-.072**	.026*	-.176***	-.124**	.055	.355***
Last year of life	-.146**	.026	-.143	-.287**	.178	.134

*: p-value < 0.1; **: p-value < 0.05; ***: p-value < 0.01