Trade in Health Services: Linkages Across Modes and Sectors

Dr. Amir Mahmood Associate Professor in Economics and International Business Faculty of Business & Law University of Newcastle, Australia

Trade in Health Services: Inter-modal and Intersectoral Linkages: Key Questions

- · What drives health services trade?
- How to maximise positive linkages and minimize the negative linkages across modes to maximise return for all stakeholders?
- How to identify and facilitate the key mode of supply that is a source of positive externalities?
- How to identify the key channels or processes that result in inter-modal dynamics and positive externalities?
- What governments can do to nurture positive linkages across modes and across sectors?
- Why healthcare providers choose particular modes to export a service?

Trade Mode	Mobility	Delivery
Mode 1	Healthcare Service Mobility	ICT (Providers from the Philippines delivering transcription services to the US hospitals)
Mode 2	Patient Mobility	In-country provision of healthcare services to foreign patients (Hospitals in Singapore treating patients from Indonesia)
Mode 3	Institution Mobility	Stetting up of offshore subsidiaries/ branches to provide services to local patients (Apollo Hospital in Sri Lanka)
Mode 4	Healthcare Professional Mobility	Offshore provision of services by professionals (Fly-in-fly-out medica services provided by the Indian doctors in Gulf/Sri Lanka)



















Exploiting Cross-sector and Inter-mode Interdependencies: Apollo Group of Hospitals

- Apollo International Patient Services (health tourism) → Mode 2
- Apollo Telemedicine (e-health education, back office operations) → Mode 1
- Apollo Global Project Consultancy → Mode 1, 2, 3, 4
- Apollo Munich Insurance → Mode 3



















Inter-modal Linkages: Facilitating Complementary Linkages

• Treatment of foreign Patients at Apollo Hospital in Colombo (Mode 2) is complemented by fly-in-fly out doctors from India (Mode 4)



















→Modes 1, 3, and 4 are potential substitutes for Mode 2

Inter-Modal Linkages: How Substitution Among Modes Impact Trade in Healthcare Services?

- Trade Expansion Substitution: Substituting one or more modes (Mode 1, 3, 4) for Mode 2 can lead to Trade Expansion if
 - Increase in health services export via Mode (1, 3, 4) > drop in health services export due to restriction on Mode 2
- Trade Contraction Substitution:
 - Increase in health services export via mode (1, 3, 4) < drop in health services export due to restriction on Mode 2
- Trade Neutral Substitution:
 - Increase in services export via Mode 1, 3, 4 = drop in services trade due to restriction on Mode 2

What Determines Substitutability Across Modes?

Technology

- Technological advances leading to surgical operations through remote controlled robots
- Mode 1 substituting Mode 2, Mode 3 or Mode 4

Consumer Preferences

 Saudi patients preferring medical treatment in a American hospital in the US rather than the American hospital in Saudi Arabia due to their desire to have the "American experience".

Regulatory Environment

- FDI restrictions in a foreign country (Mode 3) may lead to inflow of patients to home country (Mode 2) → Mode 2 substituting for Mode 3

Inter-modal Linkages in Healthcare Services : Some Observations

- Modes are not "perfect substitutes" for one another... secondbest outcomes are conceivable
- Cost of providing the same healthcare service vary across different modes of supply
- A provider may choose to supply medical service is using all 4 modes of supply to reap "economics of scale " and "economies of scope"
- Health education & training → face to face (Mode 2); on-line (Mode 1); Fly-in-Fly-out (Mode 4); Off-shore campus (Mode 3) → A single provider will have a cost advantage

Inter-modal Linkages in Healthcare Services: Some Observations

- Crucial to identify and support key facilitating mode of delivery ...a mode that generates maximum positive externalities
- Important to identify and develop the channels through which the key mode enhances trade via other modes
- Maximise cross-sectoral positive externalities and minimise the negative ones



Supporting the Key Inter-modal Driver: Mode 3

- · Liberal investment policies in healthcare services
- Conducive regulatory and competitive environment
- · System of incentives to attract FDI in healthcare sector
- · Liberal or no ceilings on foreign equity







