

**Chair of Economics and Social Policy
Prof. Dr. Matthias Wrede**

**Ökonomie der Sozialpolitik (Master Seminar)
on “Health Insurance and Labor Supply” in Summer Semester 2025**

Topics (updated: February 20, 2025)

Incentives of health insurance coverage

1. Effects of waiting days on sick leave

Pollak, C. (2017). The Impact of a Sick Pay Waiting Period on Sick Leave Patterns. *European Journal of Health Economics* 18. 13-31.

2. Incentivization through partial sick leave

Markussen, S., Mykletun, A. & Røed, K. (2012). The Case for Presenteeism - Evidence from Norway's Sickness Insurance Program. *Journal of Public Economics* 96 (11-12). 959-972.

Status or income-dependent health insurance and labor supply

3. Effects of health insurance on retirement

Gruber, J. & Madrian, B. (1995). Health Insurance Availability and the Retirement Decision. *American Economic Review* 85 (4). 938-948

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~~Fossen, F. & König, J. (2017). Public Health Insurance, Individual Health, and Entry into Self-employment. *Small Business Economics* 49. 647-669.~~

5. Impact of employer-based health insurance on occupational mobility

Madrian, B.C. (1994). Employment-Based Health Insurance and Job Mobility: Is there Evidence of Job-Lock? *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 109 (1). 27-54.

6. Impact of health insurance regulations on part-time work

Dillender, M., Heinrich, C. & Houseman, S. (2016). Health Insurance Reform and Part-Time Work: Evidence from Massachusetts. *Labour Economics* 43. 151-158.

7. Effects of the contribution assessment ceiling for health insurance on labor supply and income distribution

Müller, K.U. & Neumann, M. (2017). Who Bears the Burden of Social Security Contributions in Germany? Evidence from 35 Years of Administrative Data. *De Economist* 165. 165-179.

Health insurance for families and labor supply

8. Do medical costs generate an "added worker effect"?

Macchioni Giaquinto, A., Jones, A. M., Rice, N. & Zantomio, F. (2022). Labor Supply and Informal Care Responses to Health Shocks within Couples: Evidence from the UK. *Health Economics* 31 (12). 2700-2720.

9. Effects of family insurance on the labor supply of women

Murasko, J.E. (2008). Married Women's Labor Supply and Spousal Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: Results from Panel Data. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 29. 391-406.

Sick leave and productivity

10. Effects of sickness absenteeism on firm productivity

Grinza, E. & Rycx, F. (2020). The Impact of Sickness Absenteeism on Firm Productivity: New Evidence from Belgian Matched Employer-Employee Panel Data. *Industrial Relations* 59. 150-194

Task

Each seminar paper uses the given scientific article as an introduction to the literature search and formulates a suitable question based on the topic, introductory literature and research. It presents the relevant findings of the independently researched scientific economic literature in a structured, literature-based manner. Theoretical and empirical aspects must be taken into account. The empirical literature is to be evaluated with regard to data basis, methods and results

During the presentation, the results of the research and analysis are presented in a structured manner. At the end of the presentation, a concrete seminar topic-specific proposal for a reform of health insurance coverage based on the literature analysis in the paper is presented on a slide and defended in the seminar.

Study and examination achievements, calculation of module grade

- Term paper (15 pages), presentation (20 minutes)
- Module grade: term paper 70%, presentation 30%
- **The seminar is offered in German, but the term paper and presentation can also be written and delivered in English.**

Dates

- Preliminary meeting: February 3, 2025, 16:45-18:15, FG 1.036
- **Registration via [StudOn](#) (with topic preferences):** after the preliminary meeting **until April 22, 2025** at the latest (First Come, First Served; maximum 10 participants)
- Exam registration and deregistration: May 12-13, 2025
- Submission of seminar papers (by email): June 13, 2025
- Seminar (presentations): July 3-4, 2025, FG 1.036

Access to materials/literature/registration:

- [StudOn](#)

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N.N. (teaching assistant not yet named)