



The Care Dividend

Long-term care often falls by the wayside in national policy dialogues. As populations age around the world and the prevalence of chronic conditions increases, greater numbers of people will need care and support, putting added pressures on acute-care facilities, communities, and families, among others. This increase in demand for long-term care raises questions about the capacity of governments to provide access to needed care, how these services will be properly resourced and who should receive these benefits. *The Care Dividend* provides a roadmap for investing in long-term care systems. It argues for increased public investment in high-quality, universally accessible long-term care and explains why these systems benefit everyone: households, health systems, economies, and societies. Bringing together a team of academics and policy experts from around the world, this book explains why and how governments can, and should, take action. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Jonathan Cylus is the head of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies' London Hubs and a Senior Health Economist in the WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Financing. His main research is on health systems, focusing primarily on health financing policy, health economics and health system performance, as well as on the economics of population ageing. He has worked on these topics in a wide range of countries, as well as with the European Commission, OECD and WHO.

George Wharton is Associate Professor (Education) of Health Policy in the Department of Health Policy at London School of Economics. He has consulted and written for national governments, international organisations, philanthropic foundations and industry bodies, and has authored articles on health systems and policies in the BMJ and The Lancet, among others. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the British Journal of Healthcare Management, and is a Board Trustee of the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre.

Ludovico Carrino is Senior Lecturer of Public Economics at the Department of Economics, Business, Mathematics and Statistics 'Bruno de Finetti' at the University of Trieste, as well as Visiting Professor at the Department of Global Health & Social Medicine at King's College London. He has authored books and articles in leading journals in the fields of Economics, Gerontology and Epidemiology, with particular focus on the economics of long-term care and Pensions, as well as on social determinants of health. He is currently leading the Trieste Unit for the NIA-funded Gateway to Global Aging Data project.

Stefania Ilinca is Technical Officer on long-term care with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health and a Salzburg Global Seminar fellow. Her work focuses on innovation and service design in health and

long-term care systems and on promoting equity in access to long-term care. Prior to joining WHO Europe, she has worked as a researcher and policy advisor at the European Centre for Social Welfare and Policy Research in Vienna and at Trinity College Dublin.

Manfred Huber joined WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2009, where he provided advice to Member States in Europe on the implementation of the Decade of Healthy Ageing, until his retirement in April 2023. His area of expertise is health and long-term care reform for healthy ageing; age-friendly environments and communities. He has authored several books on health and social services for ageing populations and has over 30 years of experience with international comparisons of health and social policy.

Sarah Louise Barber is the Director of the WHO Centre for Health Development (the Kobe Centre) in Kobe, Japan. Prior to working with WHO, she was managing evaluation research at the University of California Berkeley's Institute of Business and Economic Research, and the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico. She has published widely on diverse topics in health economics and policy analysis, including the role of the private health care sector, conditional cash transfers, human resources, migration, and more.

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

The volumes in this series focus on topical issues around the transformation of health systems in Europe, a process being driven by a changing environment, increasing pressures and evolving needs.

Drawing on available evidence, existing experience and conceptual thinking, these studies aim to provide both practical and policy-relevant information and lessons on how to implement change to make health systems more equitable, effective and efficient. They are designed to promote and support evidence-informed policy-making in the health sector and will be a valuable resource for all those involved in developing, assessing or analyzing health systems and policies.

In addition to policy-makers, stakeholders and researchers in the field of health policy, key audiences outside the health sector will also find this series invaluable for understanding the complex choices and challenges that health systems face today.

List of Titles

Health for All Policies: The Co-Benefits of Intersectoral Action

Scott L. Greer, Michelle Falkenbach, Josep Figueras, Matthias Wismar

Challenges to Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance: Economic and Policy Responses

Edited by Michael Anderson, Michele Cecchini, Elias Mossialos

Achieving Person-Centred Health Systems: Evidence, Strategies and Challenges

Edited by Ellen Nolte, Sherry Merkur, Anders Anell

The Changing Role of the Hospital in European Health Systems

Edited by Martin McKee, Sherry Merkur, Nigel Edwards, Ellen Nolte

Private Health Insurance: History, Politics and Performance

Edited by Sarah Thomson, Anna Sagan, Elias Mossialos

Ageing and Health: The Politics of Better Policies

Scott L. Greer, Julia Lynch, Aaron Reeves, Michelle Falkenbach, Jane Gingrich, Jonathan Cylus, Clare Bambra

Skill-mix Innovation, Effectiveness and Implementation

Edited by Claudia B. Maier, Marieke Kroezen, Reinhard Busse, Matthias Wismar

Series Editors

JOSEP FIGUERAS Director Emeritus, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

MARTIN MCKEE Co-Director, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and Professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

ELIAS MOSSIALOS Co-Director, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and Brian Abel-Smith Professor of Health Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science

REINHARD BUSSE Co-Director, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and Head of the Department of Health Care Management, Berlin University of Technology

The Care Dividend

Why and How Countries Should Invest
in Long-Term Care

Edited by

JONATHAN CYLUS

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

GEORGE WHARTON

London School of Economics and Political Science

LUDOVICO CARRINO

University of Trieste

STEFANIA ILINCA

World Health Organization

MANFRED HUBER

World Health Organization

SARAH LOUISE BARBER

World Health Organization



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS



**World Health
Organization**
Centre for Health Development

European
Observatory
on Health Systems and Policies
a partnership hosted by WHO





CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009563468

DOI: [10.1017/9781009563444](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009563444)

© World Health Organization (acting as the host organization for, and secretariat
of, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies) 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative
Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part
may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press &
Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009563444
under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 3.0 which permits
re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes
providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute
derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this licence, visit [https://
creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0).

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009563444](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009563444)

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

*A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library
of Congress*

ISBN 978-1-009-56346-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,
accurate or appropriate.