For most OECD governments, health is typically the largest area of government expenditure, after social protection, and is one of the main areas of public expenditure projected to come under additional pressure as a result of demographic ageing, increases in chronic diseases, and the widening gap between health inequalities. Most healthcare systems in developed countries cope with a common reality; they operate in a state of continuous change, striving to adjust to economic, political, and social demands. During the past few years, demographic and epidemiological realities have forced governments to move and think carefully about the policy directions in which they wish to proceed.

Most countries have recently adopted reforms enhancing the role of markets in their health care systems, notably through: the introduction of the public contract model, competition among providers as well as among third-party purchasers, and reinforcement of the consumers’ choice of provider. Despite enduring differences at the systemic level, most countries have reformed their health care systems along these lines. Although health systems have delivered big improvements in health, they can be slow to adapt to new challenges. Reform efforts to date have not been sufficient to deal with many of the underlying pressures contributing to spending growth.

International experiences and innovations in health care reforms can offer an opportunity for countries to learn from each other’s experiences in funding and managing health care systems, despite the well-documented differences between them in medical culture, health care institutions, and in actual medical practices.

*The Innovation Journal* calls for contributions to a *Special Issue on Innovations in Health Care System Reform in OECD Countries* in order to shed light on pertinent issues and to place them into perspective. Contributions in French or English may be presented from a variety of perspectives (e.g., theoretical, empirical, etc.) but they must go beyond a discussion of problems to provide proven or potentially effective answers and/or innovative solutions to the challenges of health care system effectiveness, performance or financing. The contributions may address (but are not limited to) one of the following questions:

1) What should the contribution of the private sector be, in terms of the delivery of care? What is the role that private insurance should play in financing the health care system? Would private funding compromise system objectives, such as financial protection, equity in financing, and equity in the utilization of health services?
2) How can we ensure better governance of health care systems? How can we avoid duplications and overlap in order to achieve greater efficiency and cope with the explosion of potentially major increases in health care costs?

3) How should we interpret the costs of health care systems? Is there reason to be alarmed or is the catastrophic scenario proposed by some unlikely to occur? How can the financing of health care systems be made sustainable?

4) What are the pillars upon which a transparent health financing policy must rest? Should we be concerned to create a more equitable distribution of the burdens of financing the system?

5) How can we improve the transparency and accountability of the system vis-à-vis the population? Is it possible to establish a funding system that rewards quality of care and offers incentives for efficiency of organization and delivery of health care services?

**Deadlines and instructions to authors:**

**Submission of intentions**¹ (1-page document to introduce the project): July 15, 2014

**Acceptance of intentions:** August 31, 2014

**Submission of articles:** October 31, 2014

**Communication of the results:** December 19, 2014

**Publication of special issue:** Winter 2015

The proposed articles should be between 25-30 pages (double spaced) in length (6,750 – 8,000 words). They should also follow the journal’s guidelines (http://www.innovation.cc/ under Editorial Guidelines). Each article will be subject to a double-blind peer review.

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Please submit proposals and papers to: Editor, *The Innovation Journal/La Revue de l’innovation*, email address: http://www.innovation.cc/

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¹Authors should submit a letter that: a) summarizes why their paper is a valuable addition to the scientific literature, b) briefly relates the study to previously published work and c) specifies the type of article to be submitted (for example, research article, discussion paper, case study, review essay, etc).