

Abstract

PROCUREMENT PRACTICES IN THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN PORTUGAL: A STUDY OF REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

This study addresses the relationship between procurement practices of hospitals and their regional location. The study focuses only on non specialized public hospitals. This option is based on two major reasons. On one hand, public hospitals represent an extremely important part of the health sector in Portugal. On the other hand, these hospitals are extremely homogeneous, and different from other health nits, in terms of the products they use and of their organizational structure. Due to differences in socio-economic development, and on differences in resource allocation between different regions the following scientific question was raised: his there any relationship between procurement practices and regional location? Even though it is possible to identify some, few aspects where this relationship is supported, data clearly show that generally the relationship is not supported. Consequently, it can be said that, clearly, regional location is not a significant factor in the procurement practices used by public hospitals.

Keywords: materials management; operations management; procurement practices; hospital administration