

Black Medicine in Israel: Assessment, Explanations and Recommendations

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This study examines Hirschman's model of "Exit, Voice and Loyalty" on the case study of black medicine in the Israeli health care system. Based on a national survey, we examine the extent of black medicine, its characteristics and correlated factors and suggest some recommendation on how to reduce it. We found that black medicine does exist in Israel, although it seems that there has been a decline in the phenomenon. Contrary to the literature, we found no relationship between "Voice" option or dissatisfaction with health services and black medicine. However, we did find a negative correlation between trust and black medicine. This finding is consistent with Hirschman's insight that the lack of "loyalty" may lead people to strategies of "exit". We suggest that given that health care in Israel is a public service, the "Exit" option may form a "quasi-exit" behavior.

Key words: Black medicine, Informal payments, "Exit, Voice and Loyalty", "Quasi-exit" behavior

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