Evidence of Primary Care Effectiveness

The relationship between primary care and health care expenditures. One study conducted by researchers of the Johns Hopkins Primary Care Policy Center examined the “degree of concern” that several developed countries place on primary care, using a questionnaire to score primary care from 0 to 2 (0 represented poor performance of primary care and 2 represented good performance of primary care) [7] Results from this study showed that a country’s degree of concern on primary care is inversely proportional to per capita health expenditures (Figure 1), and suggest that primary care can lead to savings in medical costs.

The contribution of primary care systems to health outcomes. A second study conducted by researchers of the Johns Hopkins Primary Care Policy Center set out to assess the association between primary care systems and health outcomes. The developed countries being studied were divided into two groups based on “high primary care” (High PC) and “low primary care” (Low PC). Potential years of life lost (PYLL) was used as a measure of health outcomes. This study found that although all countries had improved health outcomes in 2000, compared with 1970, the PYLL of