

# Informal patient payments in Central and Eastern European countries

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# WHY RESEARCH ON INFORMAL PAYMENTS?

- What are informal payments?
- Why are these payments a problem?
- Why should they be studied?
- To what extent are they studied?
- Lack of recent and comparable data on informal payments

# RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the level, scope and consumer's perceptions of informal patient payments in Central and Eastern European countries?

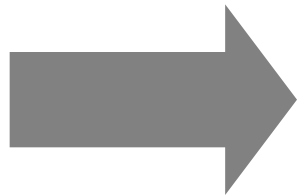


# The most appropriate **research designs** when IPP are examined?

- The definition of “informal patient payments” is a challenging task
- Single country results,
- different units of analysis
- Variety of data collection modes, sample units and design

## Methods

Systematic literature review:  
Published in English  
Empirical studies  
31 publication is analyzed qualitatively



Face-to-face or self-administrated data collection mode; special attention to wording of the questions, recall period etc.

# Do public attitude matter?

**Cluster 1:** Perceive both informal cash payments and in-kind gifts **only** as **corruption**

**Cluster 1:** Negative towards both **informal cash payments** and **in-kind gifts**

**Cluster 2:** Perceive both informal cash payments and in-kind gifts **mostly as corruption**

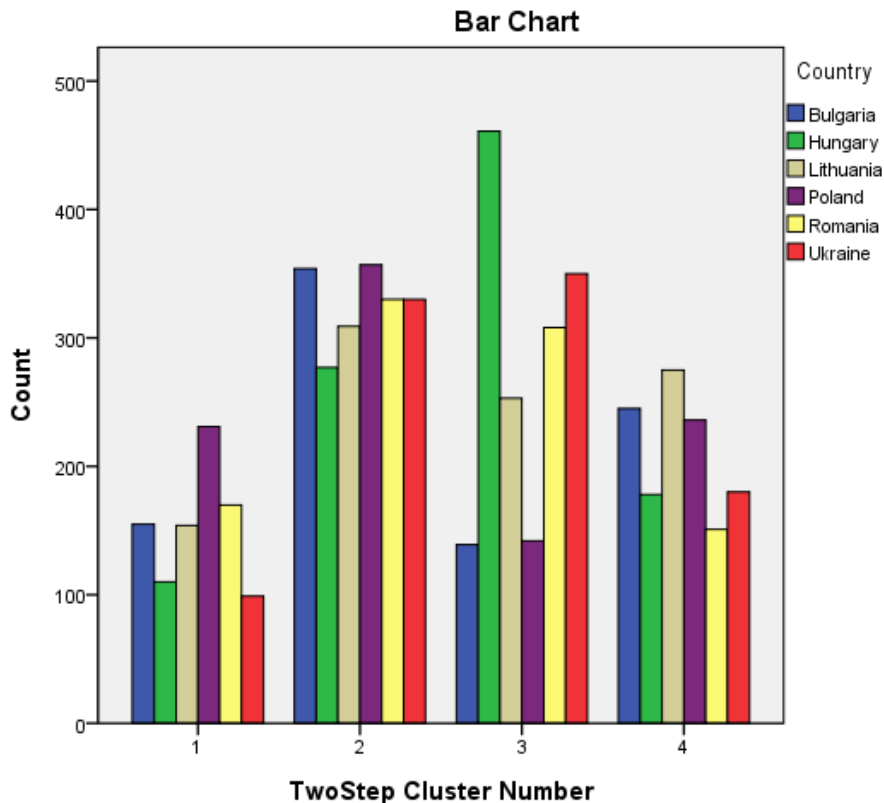
**Cluster 2:** Negative towards both **informal cash payments** and **in-kind gifts**

**Cluster 3:** Perceive informal cash payments as **corruption** and **mixed** towards **in-kind gifts**

**Cluster 4:** Perceive both informal cash payments and in-kind gifts **mostly as gratitude**

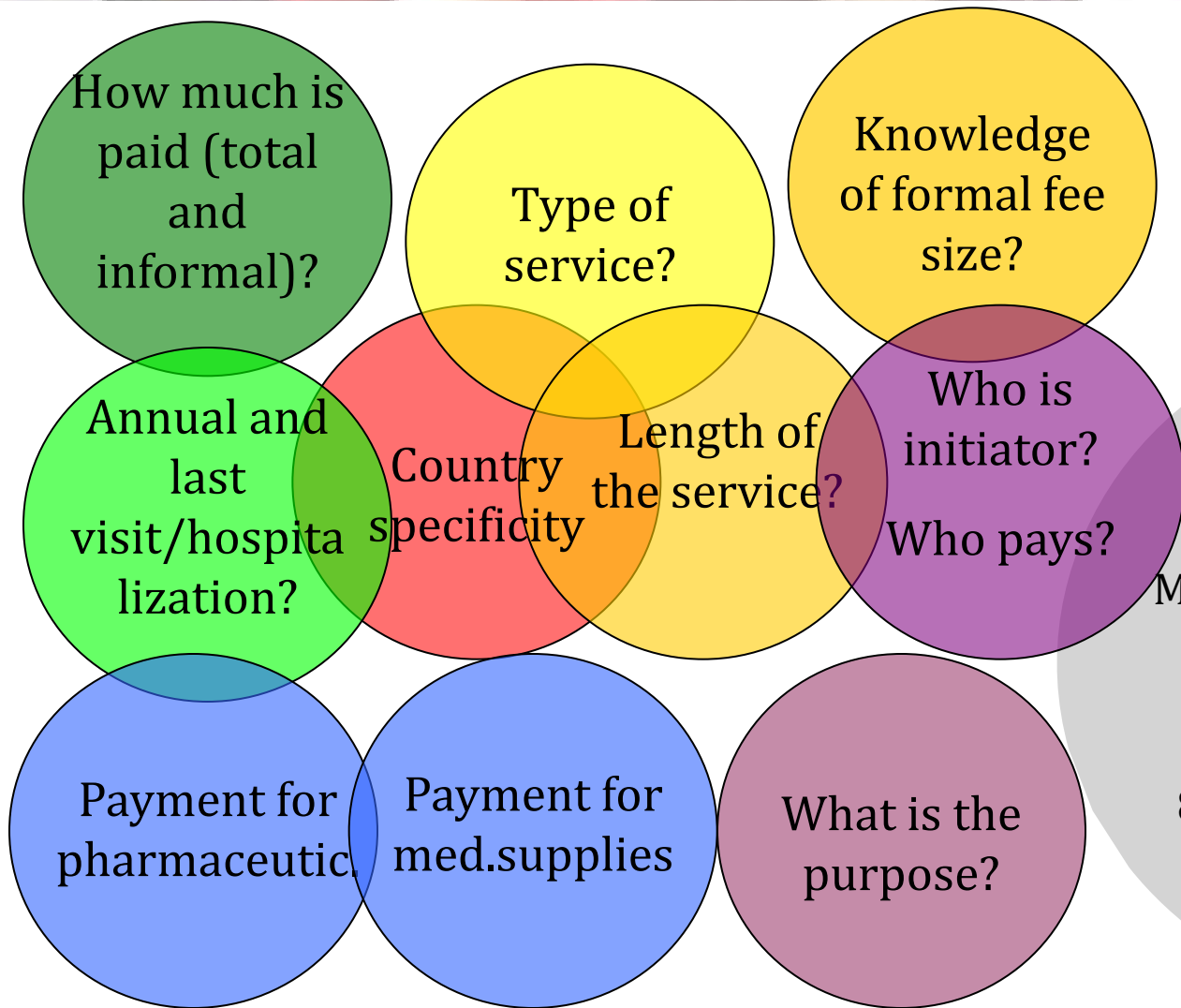
**Cluster 4:** Mostly **positive** towards **informal cash payments** and **in-kind gifts**

**Cluster 4:** Mostly **positive** towards **informal cash payments** and **in-kind gifts**



**Corruption**      **Somewhat**      **-Corruption**  
**-gratitude**      **Yes**      **-gratitude**

# What are the patterns of IPP in CEE?



## Methods

Face-to-face interviews  
Multistage probability sample  
1st wave:  
1000 interviews \* 6 countries  
2nd wave:  
800 interviews \* 3 countries

# Informal patient payments for childbirth

- Virtually all patients “thank” medical staff
- Individual vs Emergency room patients
- Combination of informal payments with other types of patient payments
- Payments range from \$ 300 to \$ 700

Methods

- Qualitative ethnographic study
- 20 semi-structured interviews with consumers, providers and key informants
- Kiev, Ukraine



# Discussion on policy implications

- Multidimensional policy strategies aimed to improve transparency and accountability in public service provision (to eradicate informal payments).

Precede-proceed model:

- Socio-cultural dimension (predisposing),
- Economic-labor (enabling),
- and political-regulatory dimension (reinforcing factors)

influence not only the behavior but also the environment (the health care system) where the behavior takes place





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