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### Upcoding in a NHS

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**Objectivos (Objectives):** Evidence from the US pointed out, over the years, to the existence of upcoding in management practices. Upcoding is defined as classifying patients in DRG codes associated with larger payments. The incentive for upcoding is not particular to private providers of care. Conceptually, any patient classification system that is used for payment purposes may be vulnerable to this sort of strategic behavior by providers. We want to assess whether upcoding is present in the Portuguese NHS.

**Metodologia (Methodology):** We use regression analysis, using a difference-in-difference estimator, taking advantage of the administrative price changes of DRGs in Portugal.

**Resultados (Results):** We document here that upcoding can also be present in a National Health Service where public, Government-owned and managed, hospitals have their payment (budget) tied to the classification of treatment episodes.

**Conclusões (Conclusions):** Using DRG data from Portugal we find evidence that suggests upcoding is present.