

Can non-financial incentives promote cost-effective health care without generating unintended consequences? If so, to whom in the health care team should such incentives be directed? We implement a field experiment in a leading public hospital in Israel to investigate whether non-financial incentives can motivate surgical teams to reduce wasteful spending without sacrificing quality of care. Our intervention consists of text messages containing encouragement as well as procedure-specific information on the median usage of disposable items. We randomly vary whether the surgeon, the circulating nurse, or both receive the message. Preliminary results suggest that treating both the nurse and the surgeon reduces the total cost of surgery, but that treating just one member of the team does not.