



## **Who is Responsible for your Health: It's You, your Doctor or New Technologies?**

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The aim of the paper is to disentangle the roles that patients, physicians and technology can have on patient health outcomes using a large and detailed dataset of Italian patients collected by the Italian College of General Practitioners (SIMG) over the period 2001-2006. We first explore the role of these actors (in terms of product and process innovations) has on the speed of recovery to a good health status, measured in terms of distance of cholesterol levels from therapeutic goals imposed by international clinical guidelines. As a second step, we explore whether patients recovering faster exhibit a lower hospitalization rate for cardiovascular diseases. The results obtained confirm that recovering to a good health status is a complex phenomenon and that each single actor plays an important role in reducing the time needed to achieve the therapeutic goal. Finally, and most importantly, we have found that a 10% increase in the speed of recovery can reduce hospitalization rates by 0.8%. These results are then discussed in terms of policy.