

# Cambridge Elements

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## COOPETITION

### *How Interorganizational Collaboration Shapes Hospital Innovation in Competitive Environments*

Ling Zhu  
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## Coopetition

### How Interorganizational Collaboration Shapes Hospital Innovation in Competitive Environments

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**Abstract:** Public service innovation, defined as the adoption of new technology and methods of service delivery, is at the heart of public management research. Scholars have long studied public and private sector innovation as distinctive phenomena, arguing that private sector innovation aims to increase firms' competitive advantage, while public sector innovation purports to improve governance and performance. The public-private dichotomy overlooks the complex way in which organizations interact with one another for service delivery. Public services are increasingly delivered through the web of collaborative networks, in which organizations compete and cooperate simultaneously. This Element explores how coopetition, namely the simultaneous presence of competition and collaboration, shapes innovation in the health care sector. Analyzing panel data of 4,000+ American hospitals from 2008 to 2017, this Element finds evidence that coopetition catalyzes the technology and service process innovation and offers practical implications on managing innovation in competitive environments.

**Keywords:** innovation, coopetition, competition, collaboration, hospitals, health care

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