

2. HSM - Cont of Managing Health Services

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The Lesson

- Health systems have a myriad of problems. Poor management, populations without access to care because of inequitable arrangements for social protection. Others are struggling with escalating costs because of inefficient use of resources.
- To maintain and improve the health of the people, governments must shape sound, efficient health systems that provide effective disease prevention and treatment to all women, men and children, not matter who they are or where they live

Health Care System (repeated from last class)

- The term health care system refers to a country's system of delivering services for the prevention and treatment of dx and for the promotion of physical and mental well being
- It is the sum total of all the organizations, institutions and resources whose primary purpose is to improve health
- A health system needs staff, funds, information, supplies, transport, communications and overall guidance and direction.
- In addition, it needs to provide services that are responsive and financially fair, while treating people decently

Objectives of a Health System

- Health systems is defined by the following objectives
 1. Improving health of population
 2. Responding to peoples expectations
 3. Financial protection - e.g. health costs

Health systems performance

- Because these objectives are not always met as evidenced by
 - Widespread public dissatisfaction with the way health services are run or financed
 - Accounts of errors, delays, rudeness, hostility
 - Indifference on the part of the health workers
 - Denial of care or exposure to calamitous financial risks by insurers and governments
- Health care systems, like medical knowledge and medical practice, are not fixed but are continually evolving.
- In part, health care systems reflect the changing scientific and technologic nature of medical practice