



Topic Brief: Implementation of Universal Health Care

Date: 11/21/2019

Nomination Number: 877 and 833

Purpose: This document summarizes the information addressing a nomination submitted on 10/11/2019 through the Effective Health Care Website. This information was used to inform the Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program decisions about whether to produce an evidence report on the topic, and if so, what type of evidence report would be most suitable.

Issue: The nominator is requesting an analysis of policies and strategies for implementing and delivering universal health through local health systems in a way that is equitable, ethical, and leads to quality of care.

Program Decision: The EPC Program will not develop a systematic review on this topic. Primary research is not within the purview of the EPC Program.

Background

- The nominator defines universal health as a scientific and social policy and strategy to develop a health system to allocate and organize health resources where everyone has access to comprehensive health care and integrative health knowledge, i.e. health promotion, disease prevention, adequate diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation in a family, local and institutional and safe human environment, with justice, equity and quality.
- Universal access to healthcare is defined as the absence of geographical, economic, sociocultural, organizational or gender barriers. Universal access is achieved through the progressive elimination of barriers that prevent all people from having equitable use of comprehensive health services determined at the national level.¹
- We confirmed with the nominator that his two nominations (#877 and #883) were focused on the same topic.
- He relates that he is interested in a description of local health system policies and strategies used for universal health; comparison of these policies and strategies; outcomes and issues of implementation of these policies and strategies; and analysis of why policies or strategies were discontinued.
- The planned use for the proposed evidence review is to support policies and strategies for universal health care by countries globally.

Assessment Methods

We assessed nomination for priority for a systematic review or other AHRQ EHC report with a hierarchical process using established selection criteria. Assessment of each criteria determined the need to evaluate the next one.

1. Determine the *appropriateness* of the nominated topic for inclusion in the EHC program.

2. Establish the overall *importance* of a potential topic as representing a health or healthcare issue in the United States.
3. Determine the *desirability of new evidence review* by examining whether a new systematic review or other AHRQ product would be duplicative.
4. Assess the *potential impact* a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.
5. Assess whether the *current state of the evidence* allows for a systematic review or other AHRQ product (feasibility).
6. Determine the *potential value* of a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.

Summary of Selection Criteria Assessment

The nomination is very broad and is a request for primary research and analysis. The EPC Program synthesizes existing research with the goal of informing healthcare decision by US decisionmakers.

Because the nomination could not be addressed by the scope of the EPC Program, the other selection criteria were not assessed.

Related Resources

We identified additional information in the course of our assessment that might be useful.

- Variations on a theme: a look at universal health coverage in eight countries. The Commonwealth Fund. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2019/universal-health-coverage-eight-countries>
- Raising revenues for health in support of UHC: strategic issues for policymakers. Health financing policy brief #15.1. https://www.who.int/health_financing/documents/revenue_raising/en/
- Dmytraczenko et al. Toward Universal Health Coverage and Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean: evidence from selected countries. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank. <https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2015/UHC-PAHO-WB-2015.pdf>
- In-process systematic review, EPC Program. Achieving Health Equity in Preventive Services: Systematic Evidence Review. Research protocol: <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/health-equity-preventive/protocol>

References

1. 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL, 66th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS Pan American Health Organization. Washington, D.C. : Organization PAH; 2014. <https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2014/CD53-5-e.pdf>

Author

Christine Chang, MD MPH

Conflict of Interest: None of the investigators have any affiliations or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.

This report was developed by staff at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Rockville, MD. The findings and conclusions in this document are those of the author(s) who are responsible for its contents; the findings and conclusions do not necessarily represent the views of AHRQ. No statement in this article should be

construed as an official position of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality or of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Persons using assistive technology may not be able to fully access information in this report. For assistance contact EPC@ahrq.hhs.gov.