
Global Conference on Primary Health Care: Draft Declaration Web Based Public Comments -- Round 2

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These comments represent the views of an:
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Organization [A2]

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Do you have any comments about the guiding principles?

Yes [Y]

Please input your comments here (1)

<p>We agree with the 3 PHC guiding principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. empowers people and communities as owners of their health, as advocates for the policies that promote and protect it, and as architects of the health and social services that contribute to it,2. addresses the social, economic, environmental and commercial determinants of health through evidence-based policies and actions across all sectors; and3. ensures strong public health and primary care throughout people's lives, as the core of integrated service delivery <p>however it is not clear that these guidelines are inclusive of traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) systems within the core of Integrated Service Delivery. Consumers are increasingly utilising T&CM to enhance well-being, for treatment of everyday health complaints as well as serious chronic conditions and T&CM practitioners play an appreciable role in the health sector in many countries. Because T&CM systems of medicine, in most circumstances, sit outside mainstream health care integrated service delivery, to fail to specifically mention regulated T&CM within the guidelines is to continue to marginalize T&CM systems of medicine and to fail to be inclusive of an ever increasing public and primary health sector and WHO's recommendations for integration of T&CM practitioners into health care delivery.</p>
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Does the vision adequately capture what is needed in PHC for today?
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No [N]

Please input your comments here (2)

The vision does not specifically make mention of and therefore be inclusive of T&CM systems of medicine in integrated delivery services of primary health care. T&CM delivery offers less costly, less invasive management of many transient conditions seen within primary health care. Antibiotic resistance is an increasing health care concern due to overuse. T&CM systems of medicine could be effectively harnessed to reduce antibiotic overuse and to educate the public in improving and maintaining well-being to reduce dependence on costly pharmaceuticals.

T&CM systems of medicine also provide effective management through consumer education and support of chronic conditions that require an integrative health care approach.

We support the statement: "We will improve participatory governance of health systems, including engaging and regulating the private sector" but would like to see this statement to read: "We will improve participatory governance of health systems (including T&CM), including engaging and regulating the private sector". To exclude T&CM from such a statement is to continue the marginalization of T&CM and consumers of T&CM, and to fail to transform current primary health care delivery and universal health care coverage.

The statement: "We will ensure adequate public health and primary care workforce (including PHC nurses, family physicians, midwives, allied health professionals and non-professional community health workers) working in teams with competencies to address modern health needs" fails to address modern health needs. As discussed previously consumers are increasingly utilizing T&CM to meet their health needs but practitioners of T&CM systems have been excluded from this statement. T&CM practitioners (apart from perhaps chiropractic and osteopathy in some countries) are not recognized as Allied Health practitioners, nor as non-professional community health workers. T&CM practitioners have therefore been excluded from this review contrary to the aims of WHO.

The statement: " Knowledge: We know what works and what does not. Decades of health systems research have generated solid knowledge of how to address the determinants of health, reduce inequalities, prevent and treat disease and promote health for all people" is a generalization that relates to the current status quo in health care and the continued marginalization of T&CM. The potential role of T&CM systems and practitioners in sustainable primary health care that provides universal coverage for all, has not been examined in health systems research and any vision and goals developed should address this deficiency to ensure the public out of pocket expenditure on services and products provided by T&CM practitioners is warranted and the broader concern of how to effectively integrate T&CM practitioners and services into sustainable PHC and UHC.

Does the vision accurately express the linkages between PHC and UHC and the SDGs?

No [N]

Please input your comments here (3)

We answered "No" because there is no evidence that T&CM systems of health care and T&CM practitioners have been included in this vision. Failure to be inclusive of T&CM in primary health care policy potentiates the continuation of unsustainable and affordable health care and lack of universal coverage for all.

Are the drivers for success well explained?

No [N]

Please input your comments here (4)

The goals are explained but there is little evidence in the detail provided to support the transformation required to deliver universal health coverage and sustainable development goals in primary health care without specific inclusion of T&CM within vision, mission, guidelines and therefore policy development.

Is the description of today's challenges appropriate?

No [N]

Please input your comments here (5)

The description of today's challenges has failed to mention the publics' increasing use of T&CM, lack of political will of governments to develop policy, frameworks and infrastructure in regard to T&CM practice and integration into sustainable health care delivery and the associated safety concerns of continued marginalization of this publicly popular health care sector.

Would you add or remove anything from the section: "To address today's challenges and seize opportunities for a health future we must..."?

Yes [Y]

Please input your comments here (6)

Omission of T&CM systems, practitioners and services from this statement and document, and lack of inclusion within health systems research, is counterproductive to increasing public demand for T&CM services, universal coverage for all and WHO recommendations for integration on T&CM within health systems.

We recommend that the statement reads: We will ensure adequate public health and primary care workforce (including PHC nurses, family physicians, midwives, allied health professionals including T&CM practitioners, and non-professional community health workers).

With inclusion of T&CM into the above statement, we agree with the statement "we will allocate sufficient resources to research, evaluation and knowledge management, promoting the scale up of effective strategies for multi-sectoral action, public health and primary care".

We rationalize that failure to include T&CM systems and practitioners throughout this document fails to address the growing public use of T&CM in their health care choices, safety, cost, efficiency and sustainability of current PHC and UHC.

Does the closing include all the key action elements? Is it motivational and inspirational?

No [A2]

Does the closing include all the key action elements? Is it motivational and inspirational? [Other]

Please input your comments here (7)

If this document was more inclusive of T&CM systems and practitioners we would have answered "YES", however the exclusion of T&CM from this document, continues current marginalization of T&CM services and the associated public health concerns related to increasing use of T&CM services as a health care choice, s by the public, from what is currently a marginalized health care sector.

Other comments

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Yes [Y]