

# **THE HEALTH SYSTEMS**

## **CONCEPTS AND INTRODUCTION**

**Dr. Jaime Llambías-Wolff,  
York University  
Canada**

# CONTENT

- Why do study health systems ?
- Health systems components
- Common challenges to Health Systems
- QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

# Why study Health Systems?

- To understand relations between the different components.
- To provide perspective to understand policies
- To examine strategies for achieving equity under different situations
- To learn from history and several experiences
- To improve services
- To draw generalizations
- To create System's influence on health status

# HEALTH CARE SYSTEM COMPONENTS

A health care system may be defined as *the combination of:*

- *health care institutions,*
- *supporting human resources,*
- *financing mechanisms,*
- *information systems,*
- *organizational structures*
- *management structures*

*the collectively delivery of health care services to patients.*

# Institutions include :

- ◆ Local, Regional and National
- ◆ Public and private providers of health care services (hospitals, clinics, health maintenance organizations, and nursing homes)
- ◆ Educational institutions that provide training for health professionals
- ◆ Environmental health departments
- ◆ Other organizations responsible for health promotion, illness prevention, or health care.

## **Supporting human resources include:**

- **Public health professionals: physicians, dentists, health services administrators, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, public health workers, social workers, allied health personnel such as medical technicians,**
- **and other professionals directly involved in health promotion, prevention of disease, or health care.**



KS9555      Royalty-Free Division  
 'Medical 2' Disc  
 © Comstock IMAGES      [www.comstock.com](http://www.comstock.com)



KS15454      Royalty-Free Division  
 'Healthy Living' Disc  
 © Comstock IMAGES      [www.comstock.com](http://www.comstock.com)

# FINANCING mechanisms include:

*(Health Care among the largest economic activities:  
Consumes 6 to 15 % of national income.*

- · **National health insurance plans,**
- **Direct government financing of services,**
- · **Private health insurance ,**
- · **Managed care financing arrangements,**
- · **Payroll and other taxing systems,**
- · **Private out-of-pocket expenditures**
- · **Any other sources that pay for cost of care.**



# Information systems include:

- Computer networks within and between institutions,
- Printed media
- Telephone systems
- Interactive television and other video systems;
- Any other information media or technology that

# Management structures include:

- · Public health system administrative systems
- · Multi-institutional organisations (ex. hospital chains)
- · Financing administration and financing
- · National health insurance
- · Regional, Provincial insurance
- · Private Insurance
- · Payroll and other taxes



# **Linking Organizations / Associations**

**Public health / Medical / Hospital / Nursing /  
Pharmacy / Rural health / Mental health / Managed  
Care**

## **Supporting Human Resources**

**Public health workers/ Physicians / Dentists / Health  
services administrators / Nurses / Pharmacists /  
Psychologists / Social workers / Therapists /  
Nutritionists / Medical technologists**



KS9573  
'Medical 2' Disc  
© Comstock IMAGES

Royalty-Free Division  
[www.comstock.com](http://www.comstock.com)



KS9566  
'Medical 2' Disc  
© Comstock IMAGES

Royalty-Free Division  
[www.comstock.com](http://www.comstock.com)

# **Common Challenges to National Health Care Systems**

- **What are the cost-related and ethical limits on technological growth and innovation in health care?**
- **How do we identify the diagnostic and treatment choices that are affordable and improve the human condition?**

- **Change in new emerging and re-emerging diseases,**
- **Changing disease profile,**
- **New Technical and diagnostic advances,**
- **The issue of Longevity of life,**

- **Expectations of people**
- **Subsidies and competing priorities**
- **Improving awareness among people**
- **Rising Cost of health care delivery**

# QUESTIONS



☐ How do we control overspecialization in physician services while overcoming shortages of primary care specialists?

☐ How do we deal with the changing of delivery systems ?

☐ What are the long-term impacts of high-technology information management systems ?

- How do we deal with the changing ethnic composition of populations in many countries as cross-border migration increases, including value shifts and cultural implications for health care?
- How do we interpret the problems of serving rural and urban-center populations, including the challenges of balancing cost and quality for remotely located and low-income citizens?

- What are the implications of globalization in the world economy and the challenges of maintaining national competitiveness, with associated challenges of cost control?

- How do we manage citizen concurrent demands for greater clinical effectiveness, improved quality, fiscal control, and greater value for the resources expended?



KS14392  
'Managed Healthcare' Disc  
© Comstock IMAGES

Royalty-Free Division  
[www.comstock.com](http://www.comstock.com)



KS14390  
'Managed Healthcare' Disc  
© Comstock IMAGES

Royalty-Free Division  
[www.comstock.com](http://www.comstock.com)

*THE END*

