Assessing Health System Performance

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Section A

Assessing Health System Performance
Learning Objectives

1. Describe the constituent parts of the health sector and the role of “health systems”

2. Define the main objectives of a health system according to WHO

3. Outline the four functions of a health system according to WHO

4. List the factors that are scored in the WHO performance assessment

5. Appraise the scoring system used in the WHO performance assessment: list two potential advantages and four evident drawbacks to this system

6. Outline an alternative approach to assessment of the health system and list two critical aspects of health intervention provision to assess health systems at a population level
Assessing Health Systems Performance

- The broad issues for today
  - What is a health system?
  - What is it supposed to do?
  - How do you measure performance?
  - How do you improve it?
Assessing Health Systems Performance

- Issues in measuring health system performance

- Challenges in measuring efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of health care

- Need for improved evaluation tools and better data collection methods

- Agenda for research and evaluation in developing countries
Measures Used in Assessing Health System Performance

- The Systems Approach
  - Inputs $\rightarrow$ (Processes) $\rightarrow$ Outputs $\rightarrow$ Outcomes $\rightarrow$ Impact
  - Desired impact: improved health status of the population

- A variety of ratios based on The Systems Approach
  - Outcomes/inputs = economic analyses (inputs/outcomes)
    - Cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analyses, e.g., $$ to reduce disease incidence rate, $$ expended to gain a healthy life year (healthy life year per $$)
  - Outputs/inputs = efficiency measure based on intermediate process indicators, e.g., cost per hospitalization case
  - Outcome/outputs = effectiveness/efficacy of intervention, e.g., immunization rate and reduction in disease incidence
Measuring Health System Performance—Instruments

- Public Expenditure Reviews/National Health Accounts
- Provider PAT (Performance According to Standard) Surveys
- Household Surveys
- Administrative Data
- Quality & utilization reviews, technology assessment, demographic & epidemiological analyses

Health Systems Performance Evaluation
Health System Evaluation Processes

- Evidence-Based Medicine
- Service Benchmarks (PAT & Coverage)
- Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
- Approaches, & Methods
- Utilization and Quality Reviews
- Analysis of Outputs, Outcomes and Expenditures
- Clinical and Epidemiological Outcomes, Comparative Effectiveness
- Provider Level
- Population Groups
Comparing Health System Performance among Countries

- Challenges in comparing health system performance among countries
  - Variability in the organization of health care delivery systems
  - Dynamically evolving technology, e.g., increasing use of day surgeries, decreasing acute care hospitalization days
  - Internal variability in performance among providers and outcome among population groups
  - Confounding factors: complex interactions between socio-economic factors and health outcomes