Looking at Universal Health Coverage through the Lens of Essential Packages of Health Services

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• Population – who is covered
  Increase share of population that benefits from pooled financing

• Services – which services are covered, at what quality
  Expand scope of services paid for from pooled financing

• Financial Protection – what proportion of direct costs is covered
  Reduce out-of-pocket payments through increased financing with insurance and/or general government revenue
Why is UHC important?

The Role of Financial Protection
Poorer Countries Rely More on Out-of-Pocket Payments

Source: Joe Kutzin; WHO estimates for 2011, countries with population > 600,000
USAID Focuses on the Poor and Vulnerable

- Global move away from “trickle down” coverage (pro-rich bias)
- Many UHC programs now seek to reverse this trend – focus on “bottom-up” coverage expansion
- Targeting poor and vulnerable populations is a foundation of “bottom up” UHC

Source: Adapted from Somil Nagpal, 2015
Examples in Practice:

• Expanding coverage from the bottom up

• Mobilizing resources to reduce reliance on out-of-pocket spending
Delivering Essential Health Services through UHC
Definition: health care services that government provides or aspires to provide to citizens in an equitable manner

An explicit statement by government of health care priorities

May support improving physical and financial access

Related goals can be efficiency, equity, political empowerment, accountability

https://www.hfgproject.org/ephs-epcmd-country-snapshots-series/
A Study of EPHS across 24 Countries

- Most include priority reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions

Average of Low Income Countries (N=13)

Average of Lower Middle Income Countries (N=9)

Proportion of 60 interventions included, excluded and unspecified in/from EPHS

- Included
- Unspecified
- Implicitly excluded
- Explicitly excluded
From Vision to Practice

• Defining a benefit package is one way to explicitly prioritize what services will be offered, to whom, and at what price BEFORE resources are allocated.

• This benefit package must be linked to a specific financing mechanism, such as insurance to achieve effective coverage of those services.

• Otherwise, services end up being implicitly rationed across the population – by timing, distance, social class, and chance.
Guaranteed Services, but Which Ones?

- What determines priorities? Evidence and data, right?

Health needs

1. Importance according to burden of disease
2. High cost effectiveness of available treatment
3. Importance of financial burden to households
4. Social consensus on priorities

Include in Benefit Plan

SOURCE: Bitran and Giedion 2012
Why is quality important within UHC?
Universal Health Coverage and Safety / Quality Agenda

“What good does it do to offer free maternal care and have a high proportion of babies delivered in health facilities if the quality of care is sub-standard or even dangerous?”

- Margaret Chan
World Health Assembly, May 2012
Dimensions of quality

Health systems should seek to make improvements in 6 areas or dimensions of quality (WHO definition):

- **Effective**: delivering evidence-based care that results in improved outcomes and is based on need;
- **Efficient**: delivering care which maximizes resource use and avoids waste;
- **Accessible**: delivering care that is timely, geographically reasonable, and provided in a setting where skills and resources are appropriate to medical need;
- **Acceptable/patient-centered**: delivering care which takes into account the preferences and aspirations of patients and the cultures of their communities;
- **Equitable**: delivering care which does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, race, ethnicity, geographical location, or socioeconomic status;
- **Safe**: delivering care which minimizes risks and harm to patients.
UHC and Quality

Global Working Group on UHC & Quality of Care

Position Statement

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The Global Working Group on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Quality of Care provides a bridge between development organizations across the world working to ensure that the quality of care is continuously improved as countries move towards UHC. The overall purpose of this Global Working Group is to drive the incorporation of quality of care thinking within efforts to achieve effective UHC at the global, national and local levels through position statements, collaborative activities and resources.
Codifying Improvement

- Work with multidisciplinary team of healthcare providers
- Review health workers’ competencies and workloads
- Work with patients, their families, and communities
- Test changes to correct for any supply-chain issues or inputs that may be necessary
- Work with and engage leadership structures to test system-level changes, as needed
- Work on changing norms and policies to institute re-designed care processes
- Plot data in real time
- Facilitate experiential learning
QUESTIONS?