

Progress in Development of the Universal Health Plan in the Federation of St Kitts & Nevis

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Brief Review

- ▶ A comprehensive National Health Plan for all citizens of the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis was part of the Administration Fresh Start and Prosperity Agenda (2015).

- ▶ PURPOSE OF UHC/NHI
 - ▶ Renewed policy attention to UHC and NHI is being driven by ongoing concerns and challenges related to the burden of diseases, the demand for delivery and financing of efficient health care services with the need to be more sustainable.
 - ▶ This will provide barrier-free access and improve financial protection.
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- ▶ In February 2018 a multi-sectorial team was commissioned to work alongside the University of the West Indies Health Economics Unit to conduct research studies for advancing specification of a UHC System for St Kitts and Nevis.
 - ▶ A (3) three member delegation from SKN also did a study tour of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands to have discussions with key stakeholders in the operationalization of their NHI Systems.
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Study Tour



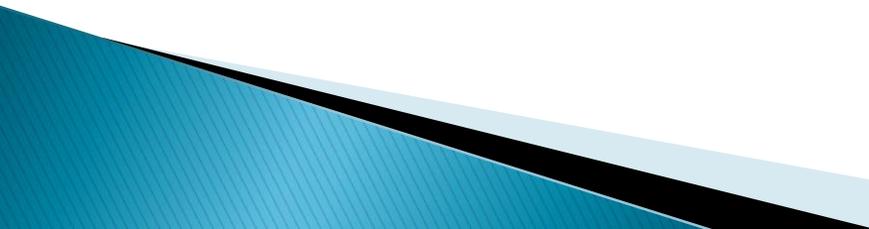
Public Consultations



Public Consultations



- ▶ As part of the research and design activities, a consultant team from Morneau Shepell was contracted to conduct an Actuarial Review of the Proposed National Health Insurance Plan.
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- ▶ With assistance from UWIHEU the Commission prepared a Green Paper on UHC and held consultations with the public to answer (5) critical questions,
 - ▶ **Benefit Package** –what service to provide
 - ▶ **Beneficiaries**–Who will be covered
 - ▶ **Financing Options**–How it will be financed
 - ▶ **Administrative Structure** –who will administer/manager the system
 - ▶ **The Approach**–Additional considerations
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- ▶ Accordingly, a Blue Print was also prepared by responses to a Green Paper on UHC with information gathered from wide public consultations. The Blue Print is still at cabinet level.

Challenges Encountered



▶ PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE UHC

1. Gaps in accessing care especially by those without private insurance who have to make high out of pocket payments
 2. Gaps in availability of tertiary care
 3. Challenges to sustainability of health financing due to the expenses related to the Management of chronic diseases, addiction and injuries
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4. Challenges with maximizing service delivery capacity and quality of care in the public and private sector .

5. Challenges with transforming the health system to an evidence -driven, information technology -guided , patient centered future.

Lessons of Experience for Designers and Administrators of UHC/NHI Plan



Strategic Planning

1. National Health Insurance is not a “stop-gap” temporary measure to confront financing issues in the health System. Its establishment has to be systematically planned with implementation likely to be incremental and progressive(phased) depending on:-

- ▶ i. availability and quality of services to meet the needs and
- ▶ ii. the availability of resources as reflected in 'fiscal and financial capacity 'of government.

Leadership

2. Leadership and consensus building in social marketing, change management and transition planning are critical to ensure focus on goals and acceptability of NHI.

Quality of Care

3. NHI must have a clear interest in the delivery side of health services so that structured collaboration with health service providers can yield mutually beneficial outcomes for patients, providers, other Health Insurance agency and the health system in general.

Continuous Public Health Education

4. With NHI implementation , vital public and community health functions must be adequately addressed. If not addressed and funded, then the growth of NHI expenditures to treat illness and its complications may increase faster than revenue /resources availability with negative consequences for the sustainability of the NHI

Membership for All

5. To prevent exclusion and ensure universal financial protection , specific measures must be established to identify and subsidize the cost of membership for the poor and other vulnerable groups so that they are entitled to the same benefits as other contributing groups.



Monitoring and Evaluation

6. Given changing in demographic patterns, burden of diseases and technological innovations in Health, NHI plans must be systematically monitored and evaluated to ensure relevance , responsiveness and sustainability.

Thank you

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