8 January 2016

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Health systems strengthening, universal health coverage, health security and resiliences
Joseph Kutzin, Susan P Sparke. WHO Bulletin. Published: January 2016.

Global and national initiatives focused on health systems strengthening, universal health coverage, health security, and resilience suffer when these terms are not well understood or believed to be different ways of saying the same thing. Here we aim to facilitate understanding and highlight key policy considerations by identifying critical attributes of each concept and emphasizing the distinction between ends and means in health policy. Read More »

Source: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/1/15-165050/en/[Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Rural district hospitals - essential cogs in the district health system - and primary healthcare re-engineering
KWDP le Roux, I Couper. South African Medical Journal. Published: January 2016.

The re-engineering of primary healthcare (PHC) is regarded as an essential precursor to the implementation of National Health Insurance in South Africa, but improvements in the provision of PHC services have been patchy. The authors contend that the role of well-functioning rural district hospitals as a hub from which PHC services can be most efficiently managed has been underestimated, and that the management of district hospitals and PHC clinics need to be co-located at the level of the rural district hospital, to allow for proper integration of care and effective healthcare provision. Read More »

Source: http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/9284/6815[Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Supporting the production of pharmaceuticals in Africa
Jicui Dong, Zafar Mirza. WHO Bulletin. Published: 26 November 2015

Ethiopia has become a model country for local investment in pharmaceuticals, as advocated by three United Nations agencies and the African Union Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa. Recently, Ethiopia launched a national strategy and plan of action to develop local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and increase access to locally manufactured, quality assured medicines. The World Health Organization (WHO), with support from the European Commission and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, worked closely with the Government of Ethiopia in the development of this strategy. Read More »

Source: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/1/15-163782/en/ [Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Universal access to medicines
Louis W Niessen, Jahangir A M Khan. The Lancet. Published: 20 October 2015.

Medicines account for 20-60% of health spending in low-income and middle-income countries, whereas in high-income countries the proportion is 18% or lower. Up to 90% of low-income populations purchase medicines through out-of-pocket payments, making medicines the largest household expenditure item after food. Strategies to make medicines more available and affordable are therefore crucial in increasing their use in low-income and middle-income countries, in which the burden of non-communicable diseases, in addition to awareness of the benefits of prevention and treatment, are increasing. Read More »

Source: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)00552-8/fulltext [Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Women's, children's, and adolescents' health needs universal health coverage
Robin Gorna , Nicole Klingen, Kunio Senga, Agnes Soucat, Keizo Takemi The Lancet. Published: 12 December 2015.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals show an ambitious global commitment to health: more holistic than the Millennium Development Goals in terms of health needs, underpinned by universal health coverage (UHC), and intended to leave no one behind. This new approach is also reinforced by the Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) with its survive, thrive, and transform objectives, together with a target to achieve UHC. Read More »

Source: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)01176-9/abstract [Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Systems science and systems thinking for public health: a systematic review of the field
Gemma Carey, Eleanor Malbon, Nicole Carey, Andrew Joyce, Brad Crammond, Alan Carey. British Medical Journal. Published: 30 December 2015.

This paper reports on findings from a systematic review designed to investigate the state of systems science research in public health. The objectives were to: (1) explore how systems methodologies are being applied within public health and (2) identify fruitful areas of activity. Read More »

Source: http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/5/12/e009002.full [Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Recent News

Call for Application to the Primary Health Care Expert Review Committee
National Department of Health. Published: 18 December 2015.

The National Department of Health is calling for applications from suitably qualified doctors, pharmacists, nurses and other health professionals for appointment to the Expert Review Committee for the Primary Health Care Level Essential Medicines List. Read More »

Source: http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/component/phocadownload/category/256 [Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Long-awaited autonomy in sight for SA's doctors
South African Medical Journal. Published: 8 January 2016.

The long-awaited extraction of doctors - and possibly dentists - from the dysfunctional and shockingly administered Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), the defiant leadership of which face the sack, will not lack a helping hand from the country's largest doctor body. Read More »

Source: http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/10414/7063 [Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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HPCSA ignores recommendations of ministerial task team
Mail & Guardian. Published: 6 January 2016.

The "dysfunctional" Health Professions Council of South Africa will not act immediately on recommendations made by Aaron Motsoaledi's task team. Read More »

Source: http://mg.co.za/article/2016-01-06-hpcsa-ignores-recommendations-of-ministerial-task-team [Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Editorial: No remedy in NHI white paper
BDlive. Published: 17 December 2015.

Had it been released on any other day, the new White Paper on the proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) system might have made much bigger headlines, and led to much louder cries of outrage. Read More »

Source: http://www.bdlive.co.za/opinion/editorials/2015/12/17/editorial-no-remedy-in-nhi-white-paper
[Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Private Hospitals: Demand in neglected areas
Financial Mail. Published: 17 December 2015.

While SA's dominant hospital groups venture offshore into more developed markets, smaller groups are making inroads into non metropolitan areas in SA - disproving the notion that the local market is saturated. Read More »

Source: http://www.financialmail.co.za/features/2015/12/17/private-hospitals-demand-in-neglected-areas
[Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Community health workers demand more pay
Health-e News. Published: 4 January 2016.

Hundreds of Gauteng community health workers recently protested outside Gauteng Department of Health offices to demand stipend increases, annual leave and permanent employment. Read More »

Source: http://www.health-e.org.za/2016/01/04/community-health-workers-demand-more-pay/ [Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Breast milk banks tackle high infant mortality in SA
BDlive. Published: 3 January 2016

Patrick, a premature baby weighing a minuscule 1.2 kilos, was "saved" by a breast milk bank in South Africa, where child mortality is high despite being the continent's most developed economy. Read More »

Source: http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/2016/01/03/breast-milk-banks-tackle-high-infant-mortality-in-sa
[Accessed: 8 January 2016]

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Training and Resources

Ensuring Fair Evaluation of and Access to Tuberculosis Treatment
Treatment Action Group. Published: December 2015.
Url: http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/tb/activist-guide-regulatory-issues

Medical regulatory authorities fulfill an essential role by evaluating research and marketing applications for new products. They approve or reject applications based on data indicating safety, efficacy, and quality, gathered from scientifically controlled methods of data collection. Without effective regulatory authorities, the public has no way to know which medicines to trust.

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"Doing It" HIV Testing Campaign
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published: December 2015.
URL: http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/dhap/new/dcl/120715.html

"Doing It" is an awareness campaign aimed at people aged 18-64 emphasising the importance of HIV testing for all. To encourage testing for all adults, the campaign focuses on populations who are most at risk for HIV in the United States. Materials produced for the campaign - including national online, print and broadcast advertisements, Pride events, social media, and community engagement - are available for downloading from this page.

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Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals

Health in 2015: From MDGs to SDGs
WHO. Published: 8 December 2015

In 2015 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to the end of their term, and a post-2015 agenda, comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), takes their place. This WHO report looks back 15 years at the trends and positive forces during the MDG era and assesses the main challenges that will affect health in the coming 15 years. Click Here»

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Conferences and Events

Aid and International Development Forum (AIDF) Africa Summit 2016
When:2-3 February 2016
United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
URL: http://africa.aidforum.org/

The summit demonstrates best practice approaches, current initiatives and latest innovations, offering trans-disciplinary discussions with participants from all relevant stakeholder groups. The agenda has been developed in consultation with key organisations, such as WFP, IRFC, World Vision, USAID, UNICEF, World Bank, Save the Children, UN Habitat, CRS, FHI360, Oxfam, Habitat for Humanity International, IRD.

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Denosa 3rd South African Nurses' Conference
When: 24-26 February 2016
Venue: Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng
URL: http://www.sanursesconference.co.za

DENOSA is hosting the Third South African Nurses' Conference from the 24th to the 26th February 2016.This is a biannual event born out of a need to build capacity and create an enabling environment for South African nurses to effectively and positively influence health policy. It further affords the cadre an opportunity to critically analyze the South African health system and propose solutions. Become part of history.

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Thoracic Society Conference
When:18-21 August 2016
Venue: Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa
URL: http://www.pulmonology.co.za/calendar.php

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HST Conference 2016
When: 4-6 May 2016
Venue: Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng
URL: http://www.hstconference2016.org.za

Health Systems Trust (HST) is hosting a conference from 4-6 May 2016 at the Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng. Under the banner of Strengthened health systems for sustainable development: sharing, supporting, synergising, the event is designed to advance the global public health agenda in improving health outcomes.

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Women Deliver 4th Global Conference
When: 16-19 May 2016
Venue: Copenhagen, Denmark
URL: http://wd2016.org/

Women Deliver's conferences have become some of the world's biggest global convenings to focus on the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women. Building on the successes of Women Deliver's three previous global gatherings-in London in 2007, in Washington in 2010, and in Kuala Lumpur in 2013-the 2016 Conference will bring together world leaders, advocates, policymakers, journalists, young people, researchers, and leaders of corporate companies and civil society to showcase what it means and how it works when girls and women become the focus of development efforts.

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Innovation in Medicine and Healthcare Systems
When: 15-17 June 2016
Venue: Puerto de le Cruz, Tenerife, Spain
URL: http://inmed-16.kesinternational.org/

The KES International Conference on Innovation in Medicine and Healthcare (KES-InMed-16) will gather a multi-disciplinary group consisting of researchers and engineers, managers, students and practitioners from the medical arena, to discuss the ways that innovation, knowledge exchange and enterprise can be applied to

issues relating to medicine, surgery, healthcare and the issues of an ageing population.

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International AIDS Conference
When: 17-22 July 2016
Venue: International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa
URL: http://www.aids2016.org/

The International AIDS Conference is the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV, as well as policy makers, persons living with HIV and other individuals committed to ending the pandemic. It is a chance to assess where we are, evaluate recent scientific developments and lessons learnt, and collectively chart a course forward

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Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research
When: 14-18 November 2016
Venue: Vancouver, Canada
URL: http://www.csih.org/en/events/fourth-global-symposium-on-health-systems-research/

The Global Symposium on Health Systems Research is hosted every two years by HSG to bring together its members with the full range of players involved in health systems and policy research. There is currently no other international gathering that serves the needs of this community. Previous events have been held in Cape Town (2014), Beijing (2012) and Montreux (2010).

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Job Opportunities

Aquity Innovations: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Consultant
Closing date: 15 January 2016
Please view our website for more details
http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/monitoring-evaluation-and-learning-consultant

ICCO Southern Africa: Country Manager
Closing date: 22 January 2016
Please view our website for more details
http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/country-manager

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