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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Implications of dual practice for universal health coverage
Barbara McPake, Giuliano Russo, David Hipgrave, Krishna Hort & James Campbell. WHO Bulletin. Published: 19 November 2015.

Over the last five years, universal health coverage (UHC) has become an agreed goal of global health policy and planning initiatives. Target 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to achieve UHC, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. However, scholars and health policy-makers have noted that attaining this goal will require a sufficient number of prepared and motivated health workers. Others have drawn attention to the importance of harnessing labour market forces to achieve UHC. Read More »

Source: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/2/14-151894/en/ [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

Moving towards universal health coverage: Lessons from 11 country studies
Prof Michael R Reich, Joseph Harris, Naoki Ikegami, Dr Akiko Maeda, Cheryl Cashin, Edson C Araujo, Keizo Takemi, Timothy G Evans. The Lancet. Published: 20 February 2016.

In recent years, many countries have adopted universal health coverage (UHC) as a national aspiration. In response to increasing demand for a systematic assessment of global experiences with UHC, the Government

of Japan and the World Bank collaborated on a 2-year multi-country research programme to analyse the processes of moving towards UHC. Read More »

Source: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)60002-2 [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

Health policy and systems research and analysis in Nigeria: Examining health policymakers' and researchers' capacity assets, needs and perspectives in south-east Nigeria

Benjamin Uzochukwu, Chinyere Mbachu, Obinna Onwujekwe, Chinenye Okwuosa, Enyi Etiaba, Monica E. Nystrom and Lucy Gilson. Health Research Policy and Systems. Published: 24 February 2016

Health policy and systems research and analysis (HPSR+A) has been noted as central to health systems strengthening, yet the capacity for HPSR+A is limited in low- and middle-income countries. Building the capacity of African institutions, rather than relying on training provided in northern countries, is a more sustainable way of building the field in the continent. Read More »

Source: http://health-policy-systems.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12961-016-0083-6 [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Monitoring HIV and AIDS Related Policy Reforms: A Road Map to Strengthen Policy Monitoring and Implementation in PEPFAR Partner Countries

CJeffrey Lane, Andre Verani, Mai Hijazi, Erin Hurley, Amy Hagopian, Nicole Judice, et al. Plos One. Published: 25 February 2016.

Achieving an AIDS-free generation will require the adoption and implementation of critical health policy reforms. However, countries with high HIV burden often have low policy development, advocacy, and monitoring capacity. This lack of capacity may be a significant barrier to achieving the AIDS-free generation goals. Read More »

Source: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0146720 [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Role of spatial tools in public health policymaking of Bangladesh: opportunities and challenges

Dohyeong Kim, Malabika Sarker and Priyanka Vyas. Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition 2016. Published: 27 February 2016.

In spite of the increasing efforts to gather spatial data in developing countries, the use of maps is mostly for visualization of health indicators rather than informed decision-making. Various spatial tools can aid policymakers to allocate resources effectively, predict patterns in communicable or infectious diseases, and provide insights into geographical factors which are associated with utilization or adequacy of health services. Read More »

Source: http://jhpn.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s41043-016-0045-1 [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Lessons from the Ebola Outbreak: Action Items for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

Kathryn H. Jacobsen, A. Alonso Aguirre, Charles L. Bailey, Ancha V. Baranova, Andrew T. Crooks, et al. Ecohealth. Published: February 2016.

As the Ebola outbreak in West Africa wanes, it is time for the international scientific community to reflect on how to improve the detection of and coordinated response to future epidemics. Our interdisciplinary team identified key lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak that can be clustered into three areas: environmental conditions related to early warning systems, host characteristics related to public health, and agent issues that can be addressed through the laboratory sciences. Read More »

Source: http://download.springer.com/static/pdf/161/art%253A10.1007%252Fs10393-016-1100-5.pdf? [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Recent News

The five principles behind the world's most efficient health systems
The Guardian. Published: 1 March 2016.

One of the greatest conundrums in global health is why so many countries don't get what they pay for. A relationship between health expenditure and health exists, but is far looser than you might think. Many nations spend a quarter or even a half of what others do for the same or better outcomes. Read More »

Source: http://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2016/mar/01/worlds-most-efficient-health-systems [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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A global defence system to fight virus threats is urgently needed

The Guardian. Published: 27 February 2016.

The Ebola and Zika epidemics require a coordinated response involving infrastructure, international organisation and readily available vaccines. A healthy body has three essential systems for staying that way. There is physical fitness, building resilience against threats. There is the brain, to spot danger and take action. And there is the immune system, to neutralise infections that breach other defences. Read More »

Source: http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/feb/27/global-defence-against-virus-zika-ebola-needed [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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National Health Insurance: A wing and a prayer
Financial Mail. Published: 26 February 2016

Government's National Health Insurance plan (NHI), which has the noble ambition of extending affordable, quality treatment to all, is based on the most dramatic overhaul of the SA health-care system since the ANC came to power in 1994. Read More »

Source: http://www.financialmail.co.za/coverstory/2016/02/25/national-health-insurance-a-wing-and-a-prayer [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Health-care Inquiry: Medical aids in the dock
Financial Mail. Published: 25 February 2016.

Craig Lester, a television freelancer, couldn't control his tears last week when testifying at the competition tribunal's inquiry into the private health sector. Read More »

Source: http://www.financialmail.co.za/coverstory/2016/02/25/health-care-inquiry-medical-aids-in-the-dock [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Admin jobs surge in public healthcare
BDlive. Published: 29 February 2016.

The ranks of public healthcare's administrative staff increased 12% in the three years to September last year, even as the number of doctors and nurses flat lined, Treasury figures show. The data are in line with a recent analysis by the Development Policy Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, which found that the government went on a recruitment drive after 2008 in which low-level clerks were among the primary beneficiaries. Read More »

Source: http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/health/2016/02/29/admin-jobs-surge-in-public-healthcare[Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Vaginal ring offers partial HIV protection in HIV Treatment
Health-e News. Published: 22 February 2016.

A vaginal ring that releases antiretroviral (ARV) medicine slowly over a month provides women with moderate protection against HIV infection.One-third fewer women were infected with HIV when using the ring filled with the ARV, dapivirine, than women using a ring without the ARV, according to results from two big trials released yesterday. Read More »

Source: http://www.health-e.org.za/2016/02/22/vaginal-ring-offers-partial-hiv-protection/[Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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HPV rates drop 64% in decade since recommended CDC vaccination
The Guardian. Published: 22 February 2016

Although human papillomavirus vaccination rates are relatively low in the US, this the first time a study has shown evidence of the effect on women in their 20s. Read More »

Source: http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/22/hpv-rates-drop-vaccination-cdc-human-papillomavirus[Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Five lessons Nigeria learnt when it clamped down on polio
Bhekisisa. Published: 3 March 2016.

Success hinges on a number of key factors, ranging from government buy-in to harnessing the support of traditional leaders and civil society.Much of my life has been spent working to eradicate polio, a crippling and vaccine-preventable disease. This was a feat once considered impossible - even just a few years ago, Nigeria accounted for more than half of all polio cases worldwide. But last July, against all odds, we celebrated our first anniversary of being polio-free. Read More »

Source: [Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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No cause for panic stations over SA Zika case
Mail & Guardian. Published: 22 February 2016.

Health authorities say the visitor diagnosed with the mosquito-spread virus has recovered and there is minimal likelihood of a local outbreak.Read More »

Source: http://mg.co.za/article/2016-02-22-no-cause-for-panic-stations-over-sa-zika-case-says-expert
[Accessed: 04 March 2016]

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Training and Resources

Coursera: Systems Thinking in Public Health.
Period: 4 Weeks.
URL: https://www.coursera.org/learn/systems-thinking/

This course provides an introduction to systems thinking and systems models in public health. Problems in public health and health policy tend to be complex with many actors, institutions and risk factors involved. If an outcome depends on many interacting and adaptive parts and actors the outcome cannot be analyzed or predicted with traditional statistical methods.

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Bhekisisa Centre for Health Journalism Website
Bhekisisa. Published: 26 February 2016.
URL: http://bhekisisa.org/

Today Bhekisisa announced the launch of its new website and its expansion of health issues coverage on the continent.

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Factsheet: The Right Way to use a male condom
CDC. Published: 19 February 2016.
URL: http://www.hst.org.za/publications/factsheet-right-way-use-male-condom

Condom Dos and Don'ts.

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Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals

Zika: Strategic Response Framework and Joint Operations Plan January - June 2016
WHO. Published: February 2016

Since the Zika virus was first identified in a monkey in Uganda in 1947, it has rarely caused illness in humans. When people have become infected with the virus, the disease it causes has generally been mild, with small outbreaks occurring in a relatively narrow geographical band around the equator.Read More »

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Agenda for zero discrimination in health care
UNAIDS. Published: 2016.

People around the world face barriers to accessing quality health care and enjoying the highest attainable standard of health. Why this occurs varies between countries and communities, but some barriers are present everywhere. These include the various forms of discrimination faced by people who are marginalized, stigmatized, criminalized and otherwise mistreated because of their gender, nationality, age, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, language, socio-economic status, or HIV or other health status, or because of selling sex, using drugs and/or living in prison.Read More »

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White Paper: National Sanitation Policy
National Department of Health. Published: 2016.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Policy White Paper of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry addressed sanitation policy but acknowledged that further work was required. It also noted that the nature of sanitation was such that other Departments would have to be involved.Read More »

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Conferences and Events

Using ICT Approaches to Generate Demand for RMNCAH
When: 9 March 2016
URL: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/using-ict-approaches-to-generate-demand-for-rmncah-tickets-22176382156

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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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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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Public Health Association of South Africa 2016 Conference
When: 19 - 22 September 2016
Venue: East London Convention Centre
email: deon.salomo@mrc.ac.za

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

Health Systems Trust: District Co-ordinator
Closing date: 14 March 2016
Please view our website for more details
http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/district-co-ordinator-0

Networking HIV/AIDS Community of South Africa (NACOSA): Programme Specialist
Closing date: 11 March 2016
Please view our website for more details
http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/programme-specialist

Oxfam: International Programme Manager
Closing date: 11 March 2016
Please view our website for more details
http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/international-programme-manager

Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT): Fundraising Managerr
Closing date: 31 March 2016
Please view our website for more details
http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/fundraising-manager

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