

Designing a health care delivery model for the elders in Iran

Abstract

Introduction: Increasing life expectancy along with decreasing birth rate has led to an aging world population. Due to the lack of infrastructure and unpreparedness in the not too distant future, Iran will face a major problem in the absence of appropriate policy and timely action in this regard. Due to the lack of coherent providing health services system to the elderly in Iran, one of the appropriate action could be to design a health delivery model. For this reason, this study aimed to design a model for providing health services to the elderly in Iran.

Methods: This is a nested sequential mixed methods study conducted in five stages (systematic review, comparative study, review of documents, review of challenges in providing health services to the elderly in Iran, and model design). In the systematic review, relevant studies were retrieved and reviewed by searching for keywords related to the subject of health care delivery model for the elders in reputable domestic and foreign databases. In the comparative study phase, Japan, the United States, Canada, Germany, Sweden, and Turkey were reviewed based on health system performance. In the document review section, all documents in the field of the elderly were examined by searching the websites of relevant organizations and the Google search engine, and finally 17 related documents were extracted and analyzed. To examine the challenges in this field, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 27 experts in a targeted and snowball manner. Finally, according to the results of the previous stages and in consultation with experts, the initial model was designed and finalized after two Delphi stages.

Findings: In the systematic review section, 20 models were found, most of which belonged to several countries and were models at the local level, and their focus was on the function of service delivery. Selected countries have been more successful than Iran in terms of stewardship, financing, resources, and providing health and welfare services to the elderly. Selected countries have been more successful than Iran in terms of stewardship, financing, resources, and providing health and welfare services to the elderly. The document review results showed that all 17 documents have referred to the issue of old age, of which only 4 are specialized in the field of the elderly. In determining the challenges, a total of 11 theme and 39 subtheme were found in the field of providing services to the elderly, which are: stewardship, coordination and communication, rules and regulations, service delivery, financing, insurance, human resources, drugs, equipment, Information system, and culture.

Conclusion: The study results show that the activities taken in the country have not been very responsive to the needs of the elderly. In order to improve the provision of services to the elderly, it is necessary to adopt special laws for the health of elderly and to strengthen the National Council of the Elderly as a policy-maker and planner organization. Also, using other financing methods, strengthening the health package of elderly (with more emphasis on prevention, rehabilitation and palliative care services), resources generation especially human resource in the field of the elderly, as well as using new methods of service delivery such as home care and telemedicine is necessary.

Keywords: elderly, service delivery, model, stewardship, financing, resources generation



**Kerman University of
Medical Sciences**

Faculty of Management & Medical Informatics

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree PhD

Title:

Designing a health care delivery plan for the elders in Iran

By: Ali Reza Kalantari

Supervisor

Dr. Reza Dehnavieh

Advisors

Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mehrolhassani

Dr. Mohsen Shati

Year: 2021