

Medicines as part of Universal Health Coverage: Starting a Dialogue

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Organización Panamericana de la Salud



*Oficina Regional de la
Organización Mundial de la Salud*

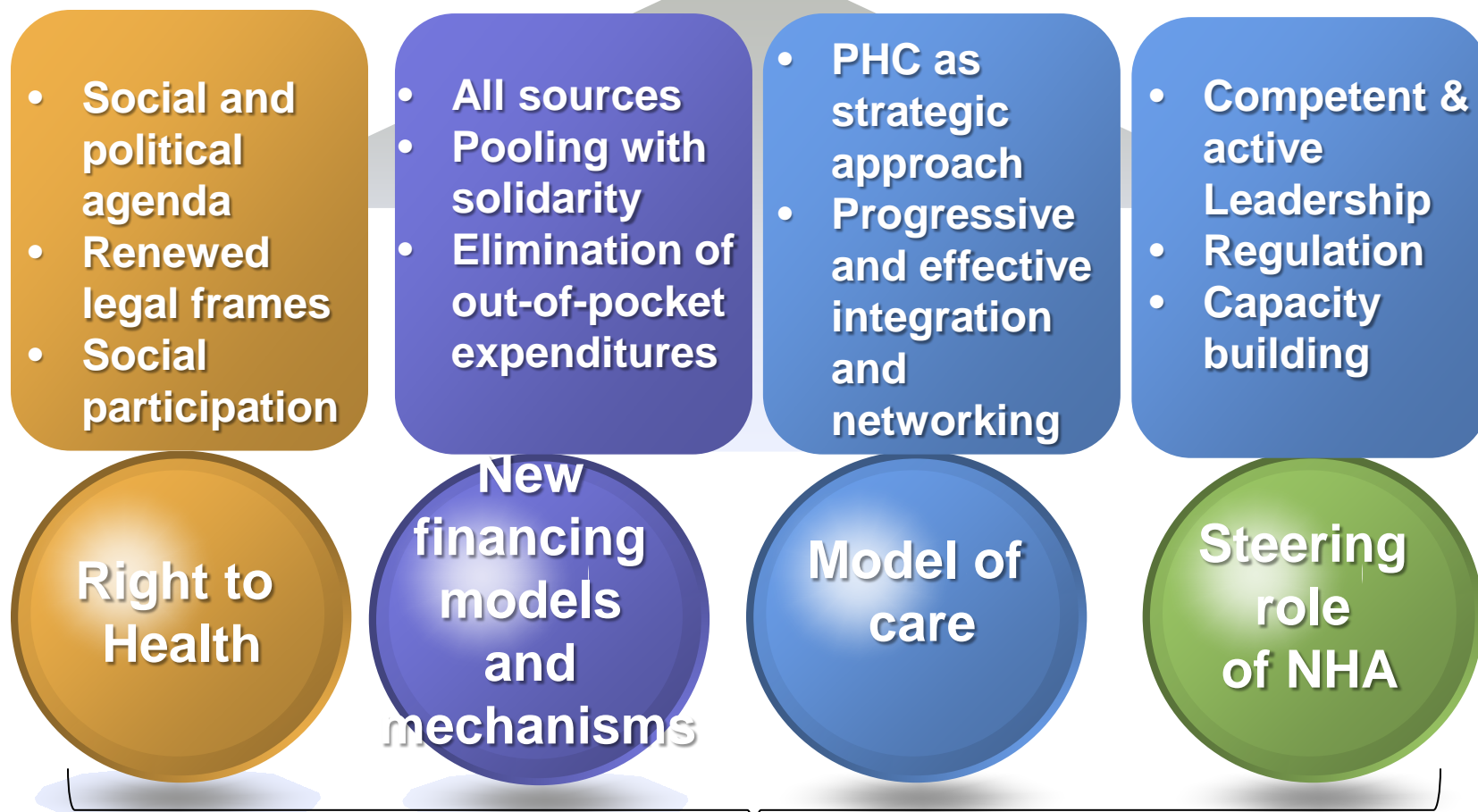
Governing the purchase of health services: Key practices to ensure coverage of medicines

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UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Provide access to quality health care (including promotion and prevention services) at the right moment and appropriate level of care, while protecting individuals from financial hardship and catastrophic expenditures related to health problems.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (System's overarching goal)



SOCIAL PROTECTION IN HEALTH

GOVERNING THE PURCHASE OF MEDICINES

- To strongly regulate medicines to be purchased
- To select medicines to be purchased based on evidence adapted to the context and the needs of the population
- To purchase & deliver medicines in line with the model of care and the organizational model
- To develop guiding prescription practices for the purchased medicines
- To design pooled purchasing mechanisms to maximize value for money while promoting functional integration of pools

What does it mean for medicines in the path towards UHC?

Regulating medicines

- To define a clear set up for regulation and technology assessment for medicines
- To fund and empower a regulatory body within the NHA
- To regulate advertisement and induced patient preferences
- To develop clear and smart regulations over medicines market
- To ensure public investment for neglected diseases medicines production

What does it mean for medicines in the path towards UHC?

Selecting medicines

- Role of Health Technology assessment agencies
 - Paho Coordinates REDETSA (Red de Evaluación de Tecnologías de Salud)
- Criteria: Effectiveness, efficiency (CE, CU, CB), operative and financial sufficiency, legal and cultural appropriateness, etc.
- To introduce medicines within defined sets of services (...answering to specific health problems)
- drawn from explicit guarantees to access health care

What does it mean for medicines in the path towards UHC?

Delivering medicines

- To deliver medicines within an explicit model of care centered on the persons, based on PHC, organize on INHSD and ensuring community and social participation

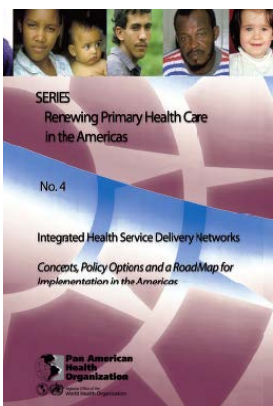
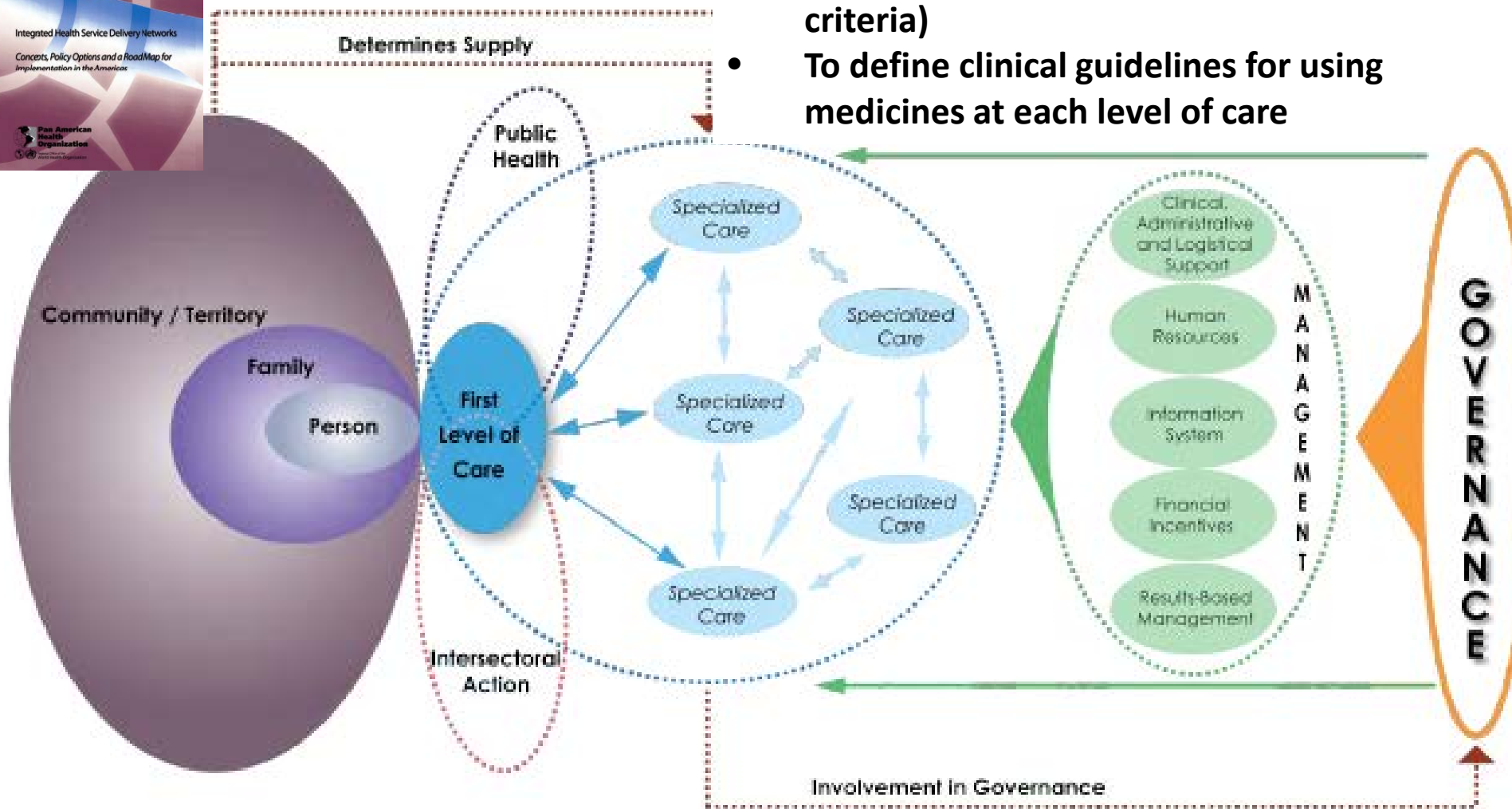


Figure 3. Graphic represent



- To build up capacity on rational use of medicines (to define and implement pharmaceutical policies based on such criteria)
- To define clinical guidelines for using medicines at each level of care

Context: type of health system, funding level, legal and regulatory framework, health authority's steering capacity, availability of human, physical and technological resources, etc.

What does it mean for medicines in the path towards UHC?

Purchasing medicines

- To address the problem of prices in medicines markets by building up market power from pooling purchases
- To encourage purchase of generics
- To ensure efficient purchases
 - Transparency
 - Appropriate quality-price ratio
 - Simplified purchase process
 - Quality control to ensure medicines bought are effective and affordable

FINAL MESSAGE

WALKING TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE, HEALTH SYSTEMS SHOULD:

- Re valorize medicines as social goods
- Regulate medicines markets
- Ensure effective access to essential medicines
- Promote rational use of medicines