

**Faculty of medical laboratory
science
public health MLS-PUBH-322
sem.6**

L1.Introduction to public Health

By the end of this session you will be able to

1. Define the primary health care
2. Describe the declaration of Alma Ata
3. Explain Importance of primary health care
4. Clarify concepts of primary health care

Primary Care

- Refers to the first point of contact with, or the entry point into, the health system.
- Refers to level of care in a health services system.

Primary Care

- Primary care constitutes the first level of care in a continuing health care process and would commonly be delivered at a clinic, health post, health centre

Primary Care

- Primary care focuses on personal health or individual health care and is predominantly curative (or therapeutic), preventive and rehabilitative in nature

Primary Health Care

- Primary health care was defined in the declaration of Alma-Ata at the international conference on primary health care, Alma-Ata, USSR, in 1978.



Primary health care is described by the World Health Organization in its Declaration of Alma Ata as: (1)

- “**Essential** health care based on **practical**, **scientifically** sound and **socially** acceptable **methods** and **technology** made universally **accessible** to individuals and families in the community through their full participation and at a cost that the community can **afford** to maintain every stage of their development in the spirit of **self-reliance** and self-determination.

Primary health care is described by the World Health Organization in its Declaration of Alma Ata as: (2)

- It is the first level of contact of individuals, the family and community with the national health system bringing health care as **close** as possible to where the people live and work, and constitutes the **first element** of a continuing health care process”.

- The cornerstones of PHC are access, equity, essentiality, appropriate technology, multi-sectoral collaboration, and community participation and empowerment (WHO).

- PHC encompasses primary care, disease prevention, health promotion, population health, and community development within a holistic framework, with the aim of providing essential community-focused health care (Shoultz & Hatcher, 1997; World Health Organization [WHO], 1978).

Importance of primary health care

- Better health outcomes.
- Lower costs.
- Greater equity of health.



Concept Of Primary Health Care

- The concept of primary health care has give chance to re-focus community health care services in both developed and developing countries towards raising the health status of individuals, families and communities

WHY ?

- To enable them to lead socially and economically productive lives.



Better Health Levels Achievement Requires

- **Primary** care-orientation.
- Additional equitable **resource** distributions.
- **Government-provided** health services or health insurance.
- Little or **no private** health insurance.
- No or **low co-payments** for health services.

Thank

You