

New View on Health Policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Health System Reform

Dear Editor,

On 7 April 2014, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, notified General Health Policies (GHPs) of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the implementation of Paragraph 1 of Article 110 of the Iran's Constitution.^[1] Emphasizing the comprehensiveness of health, attention to Iranian traditional medicine, medical education, health Insurance, and medical research are some of the most remarkable points in this document,^[2,3]

The provision of Iran's GHPs is comprehensive and covers the progressive goals and Megatrends of

Iran health system including social justice, public participation, and intersector collaboration,^[4,5] but development of medical tourism in Persian Gulf Region and West of Asia, community-based medicine, and special attention to the health of the elderly should be more highlighted in these policies. Also, the formulation of a "National Health strategic plan" is the missing link in the implementation of Iran's general health policies in the community.

Finally, it should be noted that although the GHPs have created high capacities for the quantitative and qualitative

health promotion in Iran, however, there is a concern about the barriers and mechanisms that are not properly defined and also they could not be customized in the performance of the health system through an implementation framework. A better understanding of barriers and mechanisms to the successful implementation of GHPs can be provided the necessary elements to flourish the current potential for the health system reform and its promotion. More studies should be conducted to identify all of the barriers and mechanisms in order to successful implementation of GHPs. Therefore, we should suggest that the application of GHPs must be evaluated by health policy makers at least each 5 years. Its evaluation data could be implemented in the Iran's 5-year economic, social, and cultural plan in order the implementation all of the points of GHPs anyway. Hopefully, the health index could be increased by using the GHPs in Iranian population in the next coming decade.

Financial support and sponsorship
Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest to declare

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Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	Website: www.atmph.org
	DOI: 10.4103/1755-6783.196600

Cite this article as: Tavana AM, Amiri MM. New view on health policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Health system reform. *Ann Trop Med Public Health* 2017;10:767-8.

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