

Free Information Resources Bulletin

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EurasiaHealth Knowledge Network

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The **Free Information Resources Bulletin** is intended to promote improved access for healthcare institutions and professionals to relevant health information resources, with an emphasis on resources available in English as well as Russian and other languages of the Eurasia region. This bimonthly Bulletin provides information on different types of publications – manuals, monographs, books, journals, CD-ROMs and other resources – available for free in hardcopy or electronic format for healthcare professionals from countries with developing economies.

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Your input on new free information resources will be greatly appreciated.

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BOOKS/REPORTS

Quality and Efficiency in Swedish Health Care – Regional Comparisons (2008)

Author: Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) and the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW)

Description: The series compares healthcare quality and efficiency in the 21 Swedish county councils and healthcare regions by using a set of national performance indicators. The purpose of publishing comparative data about healthcare performance is twofold: First, the comparisons are a way of informing and stimulating public debate on healthcare quality and efficiency. The public, as both patients and citizens, has a right to know about the results of the healthcare services that are available to it. The second purpose is to stimulate and support local and regional efforts to improve healthcare services in terms of clinical quality and medical outcomes, as well as patient experience and efficient resource use.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [190p.]

URL: <http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/NR/rdonlyres/9F559A98-E4F8-432B-85B8-8A3B96908488/9909/20081313.pdf>

Responding to the challenge of cancer in Europe (2008)

Author: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Description: The book provides an overview of the epidemiology of cancer, including a discussion of the major risk factors. Comprehensive cancer plans are discussed as an approach to cancer control. Contributors examine the current status and plausible future developments for cancer screening in the EU; drug discovery, evaluation and deployment; the role of psychosocial oncology; and the provision of palliative care. Current patterns of cancer survival and the challenges facing cancer researchers in Europe today are examined. Three case-studies are provided. One focuses on changes in the clinical management of cancer, using the example of colorectal cancer in France. Two broader descriptions of cancer control evoke the current situation, recent achievements and continuing challenges in Eastern Europe and in Slovenia.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [361p.]

URL: <http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E91137.pdf>

Bridging the gap: The role of monitoring and evaluation in evidence-based policy making (2008)

Author: UNICEF, the World Bank and the International Development Evaluation Association

Description: „This publication offers a number of strong contributions from senior officers in institutions dealing with evidence-based policy making. These institutions are national and local governments, UNICEF, the World Bank and the International Development Evaluation Association. It tries to bring together the vision and lessons learned from different stakeholders on the strategic role of monitoring and evaluation in evidence-based policy making“. Includes cases from Moldova, Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [220p.]

URL: <http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/mdgs/bridginggap/en/index.html>

Unnatural Causes ToolKit

Author: Joint Center Health Policy Institute

Description: „The toolkit provides facilitation tips, background, sample agendas, and guidelines for planning an effective screening – one that not only deepens understanding of issues but serves as a step towards further involvement... It helps to plan a screening event to educate people, organize local action and advocate for initiatives and policies that will improve chances for health and well-being.“

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [2,2MB]

URL: <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/toolkit.html>

The Health Systems Assessment Approach: A How-To Manual (2007)

Author: U.S. Agency for International Development in collaboration with Health Systems 20/20, Partners for Health Reformplus, Quality Assurance Project, and Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus. Management Sciences for Health

Description: The approach covers key health systems functions and is organized around seven technical modules, which guide data collection and assessment: Core module, Governance, Health financing, Health service delivery, Human resources, Pharmaceutical management, Health information systems. It is designed to provide a rapid yet comprehensive assessment of a country's health system.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [2,29MB]

URL: <http://www.healthsystems2020.org/content/resource/detail/528/>

Paying the Patient: Improving health using financial incentives (2007)

Author: Karen Jochelson, UK King's Fund

Description: This work is the first in a series of papers on how people can be encouraged to adopt healthy behaviour. Input into these papers, through discussion and invited comment, will contribute to a final report at the end of 2008. This paper, identifying programmes based on both positive and negative incentives, finds that financial incentives are effective in encouraging people to perform clearly defined, time-limited, simple behavioural tasks, and also in encouraging participation in lifestyle programmes.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file

URL:

http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/other_work_by_our_staff/paying_the.html

Overcoming Obstacles to Health: Report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the Commission to Build a Healthier America (2008)

Author: Paula Braveman, Susan Egerter. University of California, San Francisco Center on Social Disparities in Health

Description: Social and economic factors are keeping some Americans from being as healthy as they should be. Based on work conducted by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), this report outlines in stark detail how a person's health and the likelihood of becoming sick and dying prematurely are greatly influenced by powerful social factors—such as levels of education, income and the quality of neighborhood environments. This RWJF report describes the current health profile of Americans, looking specifically at how education, income, race and ethnicity play a role in Americans' health.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [84p.]

URL: <http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=26673>

Responding to Requests for Information on Health Systems from Policy Makers in Asian Countries (2007)

Author: Judith Healy, et al. Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, World Health Organization

Description: Report of a study investigating the feasibility of setting up a regional mechanism in Asia to provide evidence to inform health policy making.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [115p.]

URL: <http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/TRIHealy.pdf>

Anti-Tuberculosis Drug Resistance in the World: Fourth Global Report (2008)

Author: WHO/IUATLD Global Project on Anti-tuberculosis

Description: This is the fourth report of the WHO/IUATLD Global Project on Anti-Tuberculosis Drug Resistance Surveillance. The three previous reports were published in 1997, 2000 and 2004 and included data from 35, 58 and 77 countries, respectively. This report includes drug susceptibility test (DST) results from 91,577 patients from 93 settings in 81 countries and 2 Special Administrative Regions (SARs) of China collected between 2002 and 2006, and representing over 35% of the global total of notified new smear-positive TB cases. It includes data from 33 countries that have never previously reported. New data are available from the following high TB burden countries: India, China, Russian Federation, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Tanzania, Thailand, and Myanmar. Between 1994 and 2007 a total of 138 settings in 114 countries and 2 SARs of China had reported data to the Global Project.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [142p.]

URL: http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/index.html

Key points in Russian –

URL: http://www.who.int/entity/tb/publications/global_report/2008/key_points/ru/index.html

Are You Being Served? New Tools for Measuring Service Delivery (2008)

Author: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank

Description: “.....This volume provides an overview of a range of tools for measuring service delivery and offers valuable lessons on the opportunities and constraints practitioners face in measuring performance. The authors investigate country cases using data from a range of sources in a variety of contexts. Their experiences yield important insights on how to avoid pitfalls, what practices to improve, and how to learn the most from the data at hand.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [454p.]

URL: <http://go.worldbank.org/F6KIIC0700>

In the know: using information to make better decisions - A discussion paper (2008)

Author: Audit Commission for local authorities and the National Health Service in England

Description: „This paper aims to encourage people to think about the information they use whenever they make decisions. And because people have different roles, different skills and different backgrounds, there is no one approach that suits every situation. The paper has examples, drawn from many different sources, of how information has been used in improving public services. It also describes how the Commission is reviewing the way that information is generated, presented and used in making decisions”

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [52p.]

URL:

<http://www.intelligenceeastmidlands.org.uk/details.asp?key=83131\0\3E910015453861\R\1001\420554632008573783534>

Constructing the evidence base on the social determinants of health: A guide (2007)

Author: The Measurement and Evidence Knowledge Network (MEKN) of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health

Description: “This guide is designed for practitioners interested in developing and implementing policies and programmes to tackle the social determinants of health inequities. It sets out state of the art recommendations on how best to measure the social determinants of health and the most effective ways of constructing an evidence base which provides the basis for translating.”

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [337p.]

URL: <http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/socialdeterminantsguide/en/index.html>

Financial incentives, healthcare providers and quality improvements: A review of the evidence (2008)

Author: Jon Christianson, Sheila Leatherman, Kim Sutherland .QQUIP and the Quality Enhancing Interventions project

Description: QQUIP (Quest for Quality and Improved Performance) is a five-year research initiative of The Health Foundation. This study reviews the healthcare literature that examines the effect of financial incentives on the behavior of healthcare organizations and individuals with respect to the quality of care they deliver to consumers. Its purpose is to provide guidance to policy-makers in government and decision-makers in the private sector in their efforts to improve quality of care through payment reforms. In this review and synthesis we assess the quality of the evidence relating to the relationship between financial incentives for providers and quality improvement.

How to obtain: Available online as PDF file [110p.]

URL: http://www.health.org.uk/publications/research_reports/financial.html

The Cost of Hospital Stays: Why Costs Vary (2008)

Author: Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)

Description: The Cost of Hospital Stays: Why Costs Vary provides information about how certain factors can affect average costs of hospital stays for typical patients (excludes patients who transfer between acute care facilities, die in hospital, sign out of hospital before completing recommended course of care and stay in hospital longer than those who have a similar condition and/or procedure). It shows how new tools such as CMG+ can be used to estimate costs of hospital stays. Finally, the report provides insights on how certain factors can affect hospitalization costs for typical cases, such as the presence of other illnesses (beyond the most responsible reason for admission into hospital), the age of a patient, how many interventions are used during a patient's hospital stay, how and where a patient is treated and the type of interventions used....”

How to obtain: Available online PDF file [73p.]

URL: http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/disPage.jsp?cw_page=AR_1970_E&cw_topic=1970

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<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/misc/publications/publication4>