

Summary

The Dutch healthcare system does not accomplish the fundamental goals of the WHO

How does the Dutch healthcare system perform according to the framework from the WHO?

The WHO suggests three fundamental goals to be achieved by the Health System:

a. Improving Health, including improving the average health status and reducing health inequalities; b. Enhancing responsiveness to the expectations of the population, including respect for persons and client orientation; c. Fairness of financial contribution, i.e. every household pays a fair share of the total health bill and everyone is protected from financial risks. The measurement of performance relates goal attainment to the resources available.

Life expectancy improves, but medical performance is somewhat lagging and social inequalities remain very large. Respect for persons is strained in different ways, client orientation is outstanding. Choice of provider is under attack and transparency of medical markets is poor. Low income groups suffer increasingly from health costs, solidarity is under pressure. Overall, the Dutch healthcare system does not accomplish the fundamental goals of the WHO.