

Financial Sustainability of Community Pharmacies:

A Prerequisite for Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria

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THE 96TH ANNUAL NATIONAL
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OF NIGERIA



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www.vanguardpharmacy.com

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Session Objectives

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Understanding Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

The Financial Challenges Faced by Community Pharmacies in Nigeria

The Nexus between Financial Sustainability and Universal Health Coverage

Strategies for Enhancing Financial Sustainability of Community Pharmacies

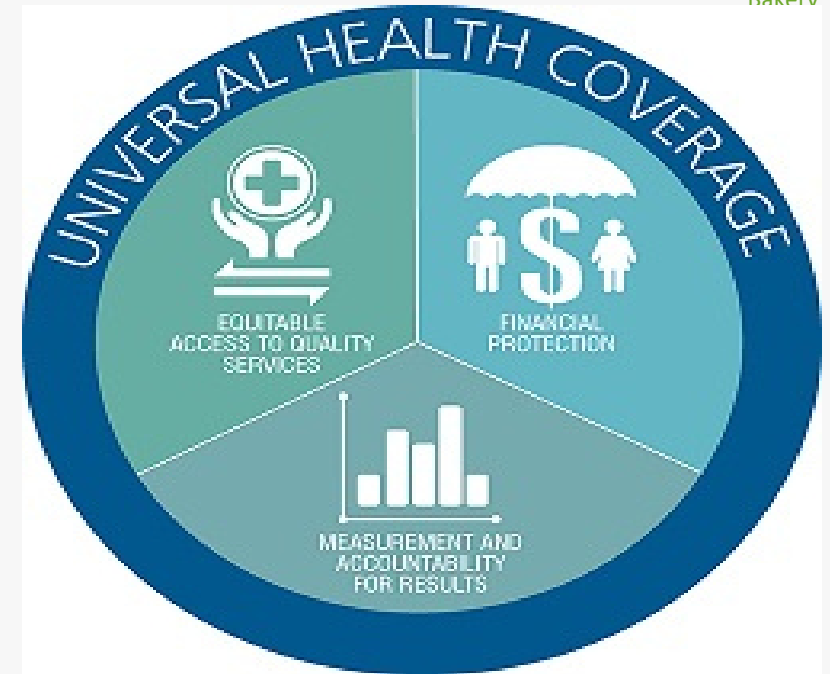
Conclusion and Recommendations

Questions & Contributions

Understanding Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

- ❑ **Universal health coverage** refers to a system in which all individuals and communities have access to essential quality health care services without suffering from financial hardship.
- ❑ It aims to ensure that everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, can receive the necessary health services they need, including preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative care.
- ❑ Universal health coverage includes a broad range of services, such as medical consultations, medications, hospital stays, surgeries, immunizations, and other health interventions.

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3 Pillars of Universal Health Coverage

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✓ Coverage:

- Access to essential healthcare services
- Wide range of health interventions and treatments regardless of income or social status.

✓ Quality:

- Providing quality health care services that meets expected standards of patients' health outcomes.

✓ Financial Protection:

- UHC seeks to protect individuals and households from financial hardship related to healthcare expenses.
- Reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket payments for healthcare services.



Understanding Universal Health Coverage (UHC):

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These pillars work together to create a healthcare system that promotes health equity, social inclusion, and overall well-being for all members of society.

Universal Health Coverage is a goal that many countries strive to achieve to ensure that healthcare is a fundamental human right, not a privilege.



Importance of Universal Health Coverage

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✓ **Equitable Access:**

- Access to essential healthcare services regardless of their socio-economic status
- It reduces health disparities within a society.

✓ **Quality Healthcare:**

- Provision of high-quality healthcare services.
- Healthcare providers maintaining health standards
- Delivering effective treatments, ultimately improving the health outcomes of the population.



Importance of Universal Health Coverage

✓ **Financial Protection of Citizens:**

- Protection of individuals and families from catastrophic health expenditures.
- Mechanisms like health insurance to shield people from the financial burden of healthcare costs

✓ **Improved Public Health:**

- Healthcare accessibility & high quality will lead to better disease prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatment.
- Reduces the spread of diseases, and enhances overall well-being.



The Role of Community Pharmacies

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✓ **Scope of community pharmacies:**

- Primary Healthcare Access Points -The first point of contact for healthcare services.
- Dispensing prescribed medications and clinical advice.
- Patient education on the importance of medication adherence and prescribed treatment plans.
- Offer various preventive services such as vaccinations, health screenings, and wellness programs.

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The Role of Community Pharmacies

- Provision of valuable sources of health information and education such as guidance on nutrition & lifestyle modifications.
- Provide referred services to other healthcare providers or specialists for further evaluation ensuring comprehensive care.
- Advocate for cost-effective medication options and help patients navigate insurance or assistance programs.

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The Financial Challenges Faced by Community Pharmacies in Nigeria:

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✓ High Operating Costs:

- Rent
- Energy Cost
- Utilities
- staff salaries
- Regulatory fees etc.

✓ Inadequate Reimbursement:

- Reimbursements on health insurance schemes or government programs been delayed and insufficient.
- Inability of pharmacies to cover their expenses and maintain cash flow.



The Financial Challenges Faced by Community Pharmacies in Nigeria:

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✓ Limited Access to Financing:

- High Cost of Funds
- Inability to access affordable financing options- Loans or Credit Facilities

✓ Supply Chain Challenges:

- Disruptions in the pharmaceutical supply chain such as drug shortages and erratic supply of essential medications.



The Nexus between Financial Sustainability and Universal Health Coverage:

Financial sustainability refers to the ability of a healthcare system to maintain adequate funding and resources over the long term.

While

Universal Health Coverage aims to ensure that all individuals have access to essential healthcare services without suffering financial hardship.

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The Nexus between Financial Sustainability and Universal Health Coverage:

- ✓ **The accessibility and long-term viability of community pharmacies through the following support goals:**
 - Affordability to keep essential medications and medical supplies.
 - Affordable prices on products and services competitively without compromising quality.
 - Investment in technology solutions.
 - Engagement in community health initiatives and awareness campaigns.

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Strategies for Enhancing Financial Sustainability of Community Pharmacies:

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- ✓ Public-private partnerships and collaboration
- ✓ Promoting comprehensive health insurance coverage.
- ✓ Advocacy for policy reforms to increase reimbursement rates for pharmaceutical services.
- ✓ Utilizing technology and innovation to improve operational efficiency.
- ✓ Continuous professional development and training for pharmacists.



Conclusion and Recommendations

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- ✓ Financial sustainability is key in ensuring the viability of community pharmacies.
- ✓ Policymakers must prioritize investments in community pharmacies for achieving UHC goals.
- ✓ Collaboration & Partnership among stakeholders for sustainable financing mechanisms.
- ✓ Continuous research and evaluation to identify gaps and measure progress.





**Every single one of us
deserves access to
quality, affordable
health care.**

Sara Gideon



“The goal of real healthcare reform must be **high-quality, universal coverage** in a **cost-effective** way.”

Bernie Sanders



Everyone should have quality health care without financial hardship.

Let's build the world we want.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE DAY 12.12.22



Image Credit: WHO

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Let's work together
towards good health
& wellbeing for all.

UHC LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND.

uhc2030
International Health Partnership



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THANK YOU!



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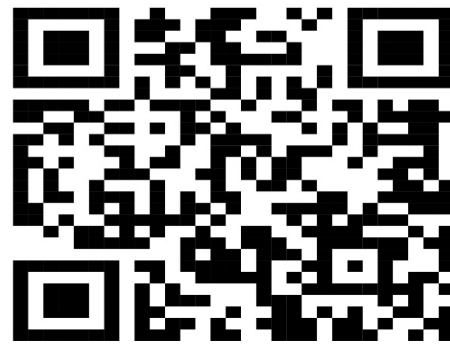
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