

The National Health Policy of 2017 put forth a significant recommendation to enhance the delivery of Primary Health Care (PHC) by establishing "Health and Wellness Centres" as a platform to provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care. The policy also called for a commitment of two-thirds of the health budget to primary health care. Subsequently, in February 2018, the Government of India unveiled plans to create 1,50,000 Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) by transforming existing Sub Health Centres and Primary Health Centres, solidifying Comprehensive Primary Health Care as a core component of the Ayushman Bharat initiative. This marked a pivotal step in translating policy aspirations into concrete budgetary allocations.

While the Comprehensive Primary Health Care delivery model leverages existing systems, it necessitates change management and system design across various levels to fully harness its potential

The mission at hand is geared towards establishing a people-centered, holistic, and equity-sensitive response to address people's health needs. This is achieved through processes like population empanelment, regular home and community interactions, and active people's participation.

This approach enables the delivery of high-quality care, spanning various health risks and disease conditions. Achieving this entails expanding the availability of medicines and diagnostics, adhering to standard treatment and referral protocols, and integrating advanced technologies, including IT systems.

Emphasizing a team-based approach, the mission underscores the delivery of quality health care across the spectrum, from preventive and promotive measures to curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care.

The delivery of Comprehensive Primary Health Care ensures the continuity of care through a two-way referral system and sustained follow-up support

It places a strong emphasis on health promotion, including through school education and individual-centric awareness efforts, while promoting public health action via active community engagement and capacity building of community platforms and individual volunteers

A crucial element of the mission revolves around leveraging appropriate technology to enhance access to healthcare advice, treatment initiation, and health information management. This includes the eventual transition to electronic health records for individuals and families, aiming to facilitate seamless and informed care delivery. The mission also lays emphasis on establishing robust measurement systems to foster accountability, ensuring enhanced performance on indicators that hold significance for the people

In line with the mission's goals, a pivotal principle is the implementation of mechanisms for flexible financing, including performance-based incentives and responsive resource allocations. A vital aspect involves the institutionalization of civil society participation, forging collaborations with non-profit organizations and the private sector to bridge gaps in primary healthcare functions. The integration of Yoga and AYUSH practices is also considered, catering to the diverse needs of the population

Moreover, the mission is committed to fostering systematic learning, knowledge sharing, and continuous improvement. It aims to gather feedback, identify areas for enhancements, and recognize innovative practices for scalability. This approach ensures that the delivery of Comprehensive Primary Health Care remains adaptive, efficient, and responsive to the evolving needs of the population.