Evolving concepts of health system governance: implications for research and policy

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What is governance?

1. Stewardship: decision making on direction, objectives and strategies to achieve

2. Governance: mechanisms to control / direct institutions or service providers

3. Includes both formal and informal mechanisms, rules and ways of operating
Why does it matter?

1. Situates health system within broader social and political system
2. Important influence on health system function & performance
3. Influences and influenced by health system reform design and direction
4. Enables and directs implementation of policies and reforms

Source: http://www.strengtheninghealthsystems.be/
1. Research question: what are recent developments in governance concepts & what are implications for HS function?

2. Literature review: HS governance collaborative

3. Application examples: European Observatory; Universal health coverage

4. Discussion: implications for research and policy
Recent developments in approach to governance

1. Earlier focus on frameworks, criteria for ‘good governance’

2. Increasing complexity of health systems – shift from command – control directives, to contracts / performance payment and networks / partnerships

3. Governance reforms in broader social- political context eg decentralization

4. Health system reforms that impact on governance eg universal health coverage
HS governance collaborative

1. Established; membership
2. Rationale
   1. Actionable governance
   2. Dynamic process
3. Decision making focus
4. Multilayered
   1. National level
   2. Facility level – everyday governance
   3. A practice not structure

Source: hsgovcollab.org
Example: CDC in Europe

1. Requires cooperation at multiple levels
2. Government policy / strategic plans
3. Civil society role
4. Results
5. Strengths / weaknesses
Example 2: Governance and UHC-Thailand

1. Introduction of UHC fund
2. Shift in role of MoH; funder to regulator
3. Creation of NHSO: contracting of provider networks
4. Regulatory institutions: Thai health, HSRI, HAI
5. Academic & civil networks
6. National health assembly (NHA) oversight & recommendations to cabinet

Implications: Decision-making

**Issues**
1. Extent of central control
2. Recurrent reforms
3. Multiple accountabilities
4. Local level responsiveness

**Responses**
1. National level stewardship
2. Governance: coordination, alignment and cohesion
3. Networks: Engaging civil society & professional/technical communities