



Extended Abstract Proposal

Transformation Toward a Region-Based Integrated Healthcare System in Türkiye from the 2010s onwards: Health Service Areas Planning Approach together with City Hospitals Model

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Abstract

This article aims to provide an examination of the two region-based health policies together in Türkiye's transformed healthcare delivery system from the 2010s onwards, with the completion of Türkiye's Health Transformation Program 2003-2013. The article reviews these two current nationwide health policy implementations together to highlight their long-term and complementary roles in transforming Türkiye's healthcare system into a sustainable and integrated healthcare delivery model.

Türkiye's nationwide implementations of region-based planning-driven health policy have the potential to reinforce and strengthen universal healthcare coverage by improving geographic coverage in addition to financial coverage that has achieved through the implementation of universal public insurance coverage with Türkiye's Health Transformation Program (HTP) reforms in the 2010s. With a reflective description of the transformation of Türkiye's health system towards an integrated healthcare system over the past two decades, this article contributes to the health policy discussions in the literature about integrated health services from the health service supply side.

The practice of Health Service Areas and City Hospitals projects can help ensure equal access to quality healthcare for all citizens and reduce regional inequalities in access and availability of healthcare resources, under the condition of well-coordination and integration across the levels of care and intersectoral collaboration. Beyond integration in terms of organization, a holistic 'whole person health' approach, with continuity of care, effective referral, and patient data management, can guarantee a healthy population in a sustained way. This perspective is a strong candidate to lead the next generation of Türkiye's health system reforms focused on long-term, sustainable health-for-everyone policies.

As implications for policymakers and the public perspective, the article offers insightful reflections about issues relevant to every country's health system and health policy. Although the analysis is grounded in the specific country experience of Türkiye, the conceptual framework and policy implications extend beyond national borders to contribute to fruitful reflections and discussions about various issues in healthcare policies that are applicable to any particular national health system across the globe. The article has the potential stimulate further discussion and policy actions in the implementation of a holistic integrated care approach.

Keywords: Türkiye's Health Transformation Program 2003-2013 (HTP), universal health coverage, health system of Türkiye, integrated healthcare system, health service area planning **JEL Classification:** I10, I13, Q01



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