



R E S O L U T I O N

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

COMITE REGIONAL DU
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

WPR/RC58.R4
14 September 2007

PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF CARE INITIATIVE

The Regional Committee,

Recalling previous resolutions by the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, particularly WPR/RC55.R1, WPR/RC54.R2 and WPR/RC53.R6, calling attention to the need to improve the quality of health care and to consider the broader psychosocial, cultural, ethical and social determinants of health, including the principles of biomedical ethics, fairness, equity and human rights;

Further recalling resolution WPR/RC55.R1, requesting the Regional Director to produce, in collaboration with Member States and the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, a draft policy framework reflecting the significance of psychosocial factors affecting health outcomes and to present it to the Regional Committee at the appropriate time;

Emphasizing the relevance of accelerating people-centred care to the strengthening of primary health care and health promotion;

Appreciating the significance of broader psychological, cultural and social determinants of health and their impact on health care outcomes and on overall health and well-being;

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Realizing the need for health care approaches that harmonize mind and body, and people and their environment;

Noting that while health systems have diverse socioeconomic, cultural and political contexts, a people-centred, patient-empowering approach to health care is relevant to all forms of health systems at all stages of their development;

Mindful that effective and sustainable health care reform and reorientation towards people-centred health care require multisectoral participation and commitment by all;

Recognizing the importance of people-centred health care to the range of programmes: prevention, primary health care, health promotion and other individual-based approaches;

Acknowledging that people-centred health care is having some positive impact on patient safety, adherence to care plans, treatment and health outcomes, satisfaction with care, and quality of life, as well as provider satisfaction, patient trust and loyalty, good public reputation, and a cost-effective and sustainable health system resulting from appropriate health care use by empowered patients;

Emphasizing the need to consolidate, build on and scale up current efforts in taking the people-centred movement forward and achieving the desired changes to health systems;

Having considered the draft People-centred Health Care: A Policy Framework;¹

1. ENDORSES the draft People-centred Health Care: A Policy Framework as a guide for Member States to develop and implement people-centred health care policies and interventions according to their national contexts;

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¹ Annex to document WPR/RC58/11.

2. URGES Member States:

- (1) to consider initiating national, multisectoral action to review existing health policies and programmes in the light of the Policy Framework;
- (2) to critically assess the policy options and interventions, and prioritize adoption and implementation according to their relevance and applicability to national and local situations;
- (3) to cooperate with WHO in strengthening the evidence base and in pursuing advocacy and social mobilization activities to institutionalize the people-centred approach in health systems;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (1) to continue to work with the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia and relevant experts in developing international standard guidelines and providing practical guidance to Member States in the reorientation of health systems towards people-centred health care;
- (2) to undertake advocacy and social mobilization activities in consolidating and taking to scale current efforts and initiatives on people-centred health care;
- (3) to support and work with Member States in developing action plans and implementation tools, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, to ensure that health policies and interventions lead to more people-centred health care, better health outcomes, and improved health and well-being;
- (4) to report to the Regional Committee on the progress of the initiative at the appropriate time.