



**eHealth**  
week

11 - 13 MAY 2015  
RIGA, LATVIA

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# Sustainable funding for eHealth Techniques for doing more with less!

Clayton Hamilton, WHO Regional Office for Europe

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## 3 key messages

1. We need to consider Universal Health Coverage and the role eHealth has in achieving it.
2. Funding for eHealth alone is not enough but needs to be anchored in strategy and a well thought out governance structure.
3. Intersectoral engagement for eHealth is vital.

# Funding models for healthcare

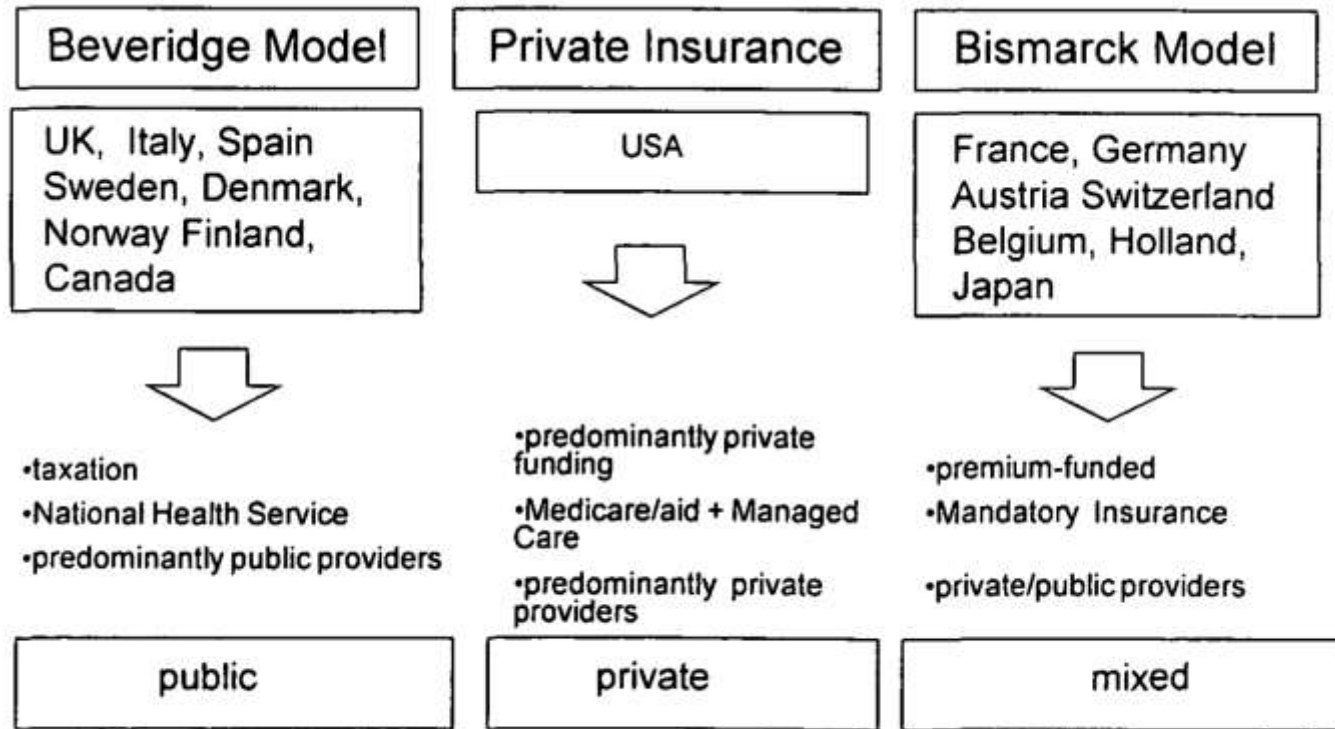


Fig. 1. An overview of the three main healthcare models in Europe, the US and Japan.

Source: *Healthcare systems — an international review: an overview*, 12 N. Lameire, P. Joffe and M. Wiedemann, 1999 European Renal Association-European Dialysis and Transplant Association. [http://ndt.oxfordjournals.org/content/14/suppl\\_6/3.full.pdf](http://ndt.oxfordjournals.org/content/14/suppl_6/3.full.pdf)

# Observations (not evidence)...

- Although there is no evidence to support it, some observations indicate that in systems where the users of ICT have financial or other incentives to make sure that ICT provides good value, the uptake and best use of technology is more likely to be the case.
- In systems where coordination and integration of providers calls for good ICT and sharing of data (i.e. receptive, fertile environments), there is likely to be greater demand for ICT investment and scrutiny of the value delivered.
- Success regarding ICT investment has little to do with how a country finances their healthcare, but the incentives created for running an integrated service delivery system.



# Options for eHealth in times of austerity

- Do less things
- Do cheaper things
- Do things together
- Take others' things



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Making the  
argument for  
investment in ICT

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# Universal Health Coverage

*“In 2005, all WHO Member States made the commitment to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).*

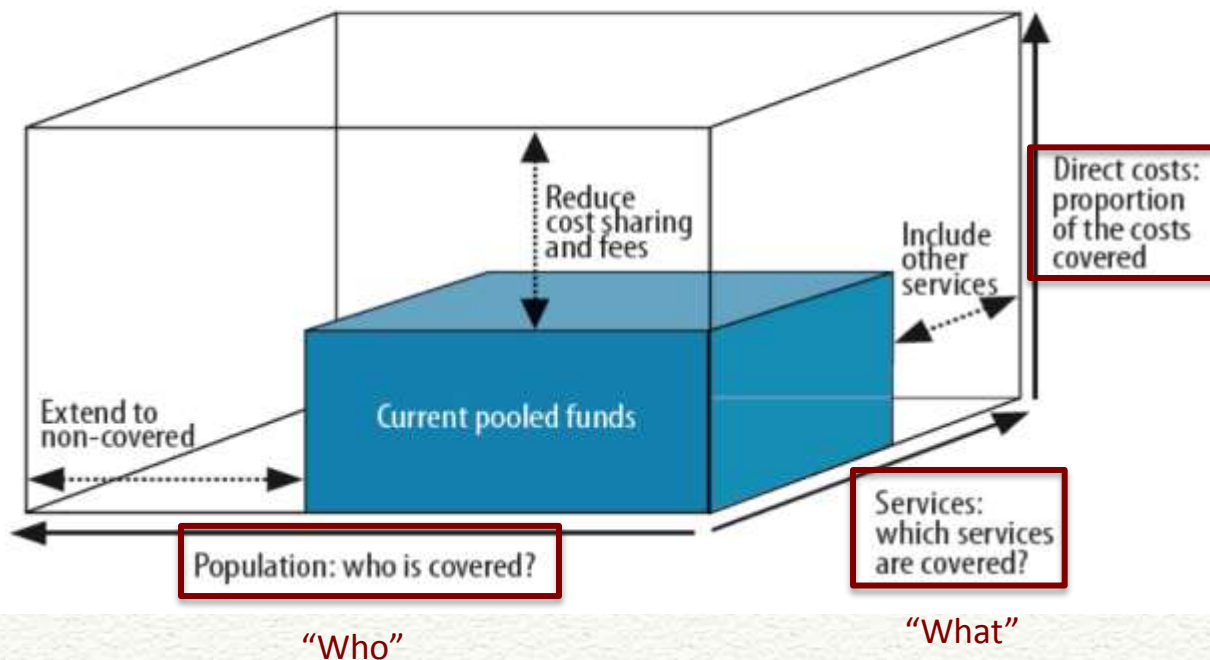
*The commitment was a collective expression of the belief that all people should have access to the health services they need without risk of financial ruin or impoverishment.*

*Working towards universal health coverage is a powerful mechanism for achieving better health and well-being, and for promoting human development.”*

World Health Report, Research for Universal Health Coverage, 2013

# Universal Health Coverage

Three dimensions to consider when moving towards universal coverage



*eHealth* is seen as a major contributor of the “**How**” in attaining Universal Health Coverage





# Getting a bigger slice of a smaller pie...

Investment in ICT is not (only) about efficiency. Looking at it in terms of the 3 UHC dimensions:

- Equity or coverage for the entire population
- Health services coverage
- Financial Risk Protection

...gives a different basis for justifying investment and provides a path to link to the achievement of National Health objectives.



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## eHealth Strategy as an investment vehicle

- A major component of the work WHO does with Member States in the European Region is in the field of advocating for National Strategy development.
- Should be seen as a necessary prerequisite for any eHealth investment and incorporate an action plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Should provide a basis for establishing a direct correlation between technology investments and tangible health outcomes.
- If an eHealth investment cannot be anchored in the national strategy, then it probably shouldn't be undertaken!



## Governance as an insulator against political change

- Help guide “quick wins fever” & sustain necessary long-term investments in eHealth.
- Most successful national implementations are made through establishment of a National eHealth foundation (specialized ministerial entity) having it’s own budget (one degree of separation from the impact of political change).
- This governance configuration allows for a more focused implementation and transparent funding of ICT investment.



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# Health 2020 – European Health Policy Framework



Health 2020 is the new European health policy framework.

It aims to support action across government and society to: *“significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequalities, strengthen public health and ensure people-centred health systems that are universal, equitable, sustainable and of high quality”*.

It has two strategic objectives, constructed around *equity, gender and human rights* and *improved governance for health*.

# Insectoral engagement

- Whole-of-government approach to health policy implementation should extend to eHealth and have it represented in policy decisions of sectors other than health.
- Cross fertilization of requirements and understanding of the problems to be solved in health.
- Joint funding opportunities can/will arise allowing the strategic objectives for eHealth to be developed and achieved more quickly.



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3. Intersectoral engagement for eHealth is vital.



The logo for eHealth week, featuring a stylized blue 'e' followed by the words 'Health' and 'week' in a sans-serif font.

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# THANK YOU

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