A National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020

Securing our health system for future generations

June 2013
Why a new NHSS?

- Fast changing environment  
  - (demography, epidemiology, financial)
- Challenges for sustaining the health system  
  - EU Country Specific Recommendations
- Requirement for application for future EU funding in the health sector
- Impact of cross border directive
A **health system** consists of all organizations, people and actions whose *primary intent* is to promote, restore or maintain health.
Project development

- WHO technical support through Bilateral Collaborative Agreement
  - National Health System Strategy
  - Health System Performance Assessment
Underlying principles

- NHSS based on WHO and EU principles and targets
- Health 2020 (WHO)
- Health Strategy 2008-2013 (EU)
Overarching objectives of the health system

ACCESS
EQUITY

Strategies for Action

QUALITY
SUSTAINABILITY

PERFORMANCE
Real transformation can only occur when all these domains mutually reinforce each other.
Objective 1

Respond to changing demand and emerging needs focusing throughout the course of life

**Strategic Direction 1A**

- **Prolonging stay / care in community** for persons with complex needs and dependency

**Strategic Direction 1B**

- **Strengthening disease prevention and health promotion** focusing on healthy lifestyle choices and social determinants, early diagnosis and control of disease progression
Actions

- Restructure and renew customer care
- Formally recognise and support informal care networks possibly also by engaging local councils
- Relocate services from hospitals to primary care
- Engage the health care workforce in prevention
- Further develop rehabilitation and long term care service capacity
Objective 2

Ensure equitable access to services and medicines in a timely manner

Strategic Direction 2A

- Improving management and efficiency of services through research and innovation, needs based prioritisation, process re-engineering, and innovative service provision models including public-private mix

- Monitoring to take immediate remedial action in case of slippage
Actions

- Enshrine patients' rights whilst promoting civic responsibility amongst service users
- Improve bed utilisation: *the right bed for the right patient*
- Fully implement the waiting list management system
- Further develop financial and activity-based information
- Introduce new models for service provision
Objective 3

Improve quality of care by ensuring consistency of care provided by a competent health care workforce supported by robust systems

Strategic Direction 3A

- Setting and enforcing quality standards including licensing and accreditation and development and systematic application of case management protocols

Strategic Direction 3B

- Facilitating continuity of care through co-ordination and integration between service providers, improving communication and sharing information through the development of e health systems
Actions

- Legislate for systematic patient safety and quality
- Develop, update & implement clinical guidelines
- Enhance the role and responsibility of the family doctor as care coordinator in public and private primary care
- Strengthen the effective use of multidisciplinary teams
- Focus on recruitment, training and specialisation
- Invest in IT systems
Overall Objective 4

Enhance the sustainability of the Health System

**Strategic Direction 4A**

- **Improving systems governance** through policies that promote a sustainable health system aiming for added value in all financing mechanisms, entitlement criteria, work practices and supply chain management

**Strategic Direction 4B**

- **Building leadership and capacity** for health and well-being to develop the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches for health
Actions

- Build the appropriate incentives for health system sustainability
- Increase consumer confidence in primary care
- Simplify entitlement processes and establish clear evidence based entitlement criteria for services
- Strengthen Financial and ICT capacity
- Exploit the potential of carefully managed PPPs and service provision through NGOs
Discussion

- Will these priorities address the main bottlenecks in our health system?
- Will we succeed to put in place systems to prevent/immediately recognise and rectify failures?
- Are the objectives sufficient to secure our health system in the coming years?
Patients and Civil Society

- How can patients play a central role in further developing and monitoring the implementation of the strategy?

- Which mechanisms are most suitable to engage with patients for feedback and dialogue?

- Rights and responsibilities: How do we get this delicate balancing act right?