



KNOWLEDGE  
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# Experts on Call

## Expert Presentation

Health Policy Design  
and Implementation  
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The logo for the South Development Centre for the Philippines (SDCC), featuring a network of interconnected nodes and lines in various colors (green, blue, red, yellow, orange) with the acronym 'SDCC' in large, grey, sans-serif font below it.

SDCC

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# Health Policy Design

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- Goals of Health **Policy**:
  - (1) Access to health care for all.
  - (2) at costs affordable to both households and society
- Both equally important. A very difficult task!
- Main reason for the difficulty is the contradictory interests of the key stakeholders: Providers, 3<sup>rd</sup> party Payers, & Users
- Government must provide stewardship and align the conflicting interests through incentives and controls.
- Complementary sets of tools:
  - Ownership,
  - Regulations,
  - Financing,
  - Information.

# Health Policy Implementation

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- Leadership and commitment
  - Health policy is political. Cannot be implemented without broad political support. Eg. ACA (aka Obamacare in USA)
  - Politicians must explain the tradeoffs. No magic bullet.
- Resources.
  - Health care is complex. Money alone is insufficient.
  - Needs broad range of skills in analysis and management
- Clear, transparent and flexible rules.
  - Almost everything can go wrong. Must allow workarounds.
- Thailand is an excellent example of how to do health policy well.
  - High level of technical skills as well as political support.
- Indonesia is also a good example.
  - Government set priorities and learnt from local experiences
- Most other developing countries have a poor record
  - Too much emphasis on allocating or securing funds.
  - Rigid rules