

Health Planning

Tuesday, September 12, 1978

NTISUB/D/044-037

Planning methodology • Agency administration & financial management • Community & population characteristics • Health care assessment, quality assurance, forecasting, & measurement methodology • Environmental & occupational factors • Health care resources & technology • Health care delivery plans, projects, organization, & administration • Personal health care services • Health care needs, demands, & utilization • Education • Costs, economics, and sociology • Legislation & regulations • Data & information systems

About the Health Planning Series

The Health Planning series is prepared in collaboration with the National Health Planning Information Center (NHPIC), in the Bureau of Health Planning and Resources Development. The Bureau is a component of the Health Resources Administration, one of the six agencies that make up the Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Included in this series are documents relating to health services and health needs; health services and facilities utilization; health manpower requirements, utilization and education; health related costs; methods of health services funding; and Government and private agency activities relating to health planning and resources development. Citations listed in the Health Planning series do not represent approval or official endorsement by the Bureau of Health Planning and Resources Development of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The address of the Center is P.O. Box 1600, Prince Georges Plaza Branch, Hyattsville, MD 20788.

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Hospital Bed Reduction -- A Consumer Perspective.

Consumer Commission on the Accreditation of Health Services, Inc., New York. 1977. 8p Available from Consumer Commission on Accreditation of Health Services Inc., 377 Park Ave. So., New York, N.Y. 10016. HRP-0900265/0WW Not Available NTIS

The relationship between numerical health planning standards and public goals is evaluated from the perspective of consumers. Guidelines concerning national health planning policy contained in the National Health Planning and Development Act of 1974, with respect to health systems agencies, State health coordinating councils, and the National Council on Health Planning and Development, are noted. The need of consumers for national standards is discussed. Guidelines related to general hospitals and bed supply and general hospitals and occupancy rate are examined. Quantified standards and goals are desirable because they can serve as a diagnostic tool to assess the existence of excess resources, but they can also be used as a rationale for unnecessarily depriving a community of any given institution or service. Criteria for hospital bed reductions are proposed in order to prevent situations in which numerical standards are misused and to promote the highest quality of planning. The prospective nature of health planning legislation is noted. Two courses of action available to consumers if they want to eliminate unnecessary and substandard facilities are identified. They can press for the coordination of existing reimbursement, quality, and planning legislation, as well as for policies that offer incentives and rewards to hospitals willing to phase out underused or duplicate services and beds. Medicare conditions of participation and linkages between consumers and providers are discussed.