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Digital Health

Best Healthcare System: Switzerland's Healthcare System

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1 Components of the System

The healthcare system in Switzerland is renowned for its excellent care, effectiveness, and accessibility. It covers many services like mental health, which includes coverage for psychiatric care and psychotherapy, physical health, which includes high-quality hospitals, clinics, and specialists, and emotional health, which is founded on a strong patient-centered care and well-being approach.

2 Values and Responsibilities

To ensure universal coverage, all residents of Switzerland must acquire mandatory health insurance through *L'Assurance Maladie*. The key ideals of this system include **universality**, which ensures that all citizens and residents have access to healthcare; **equity**, which ensures that everyone has equal access regardless of social status or income; and **quality**, which ensures high medical standards through innovation and accountability.

Furthermore, by giving patients the autonomy to choose their healthcare providers, the system encourages competition, which boosts productivity and improves service quality. Additionally, public health initiatives continue to place a high priority on health literacy, guaranteeing that people are aware of their healthcare alternatives and obligations.

3 How does the system works?

In order to ensure universal coverage and preserve a competitive market, Swiss citizens are compelled to acquire basic health insurance from private providers. The government regulates the healthcare system to guarantee affordability and quality, even though it is run by private insurers.

The **cantons**, or regional governments, are in charge of managing hospitals and healthcare facilities. They also supervise the distribution of resources and the delivery of services. The majority of healthcare institutions in Switzerland are either private or semi-private, which promotes efficiency and high standards of treatment. The system is based on the subsidiarity concept, which states that regional authorities should be able to customize healthcare services to meet local requirements while the federal government only acts when it is absolutely necessary.

4 Education and Technologies

Switzerland's healthcare system combines modern education and technology to provide high-quality care. This system includes tools such as **Electronic health records (EHRs)** to increase efficiency or **telemedicine** and **AI-powered diagnostics** to improve accessibility and accuracy. The country is a leader in pharmaceutical innovation, aided by premier research institutions. Additionally, medical practitioners get rigorous training at world-class universities such as *ETH Zurich* and the *University of Geneva* which is essential to maintain high standards in medical practice.

5 Financing

The main source of funding for Switzerland's healthcare system is mandatory health insurance, which all citizens must get from private insurers. To help pay for healthcare, employers and employees contribute to social security funds in addition to individual contributions. The government offers subsidies for low-income individuals to ensure affordability and accessibility for everyone. However, co-pays and deductibles are the responsibility of the patient, but they are controlled by the government to ensure equity and avoid excessive and expensive expenditures. This multi-tiered finance strategy fosters efficiency and equity while guaranteeing a sustainable, high-quality healthcare system.

6 Public Policies and Initiatives

Switzerland's healthcare system is supported by cantonal governments, which manage hospitals and allocate funding. Public health initiatives focus on prevention through immunization and nutrition programs, promoting long-term well-being. Mental health support is primarily provided by nonprofit organizations. Additionally, strong pharmaceutical regulations ensure medication safety and affordability, while workplace health policies enhance employee well-being.

7 Research and Innovation

Strong cooperation between hospitals, biotech companies, and universities in Switzerland promotes a thriving ecosystem for research and innovation. Pharmaceutical firms like *Novartis* and *Roche* are essential in promoting innovation in the healthcare industry. The Swiss government also offers a number of incentives to promote medical research. Progress is further accelerated by public-private partnerships, especially in fields like precision medicine, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence. In order to maintain a focus on creating innovative healthcare solutions, the government also makes large investments in research centers and medical technology.

8 Metrics of Success

Switzerland's healthcare system demonstrates exceptional performance across multiple key metrics. **Life expectancy** in Switzerland is one of the highest globally, at approximately 83.8 years, which is significantly above the OECD average of 80.7 years [1]. This reflects the overall effectiveness of the healthcare system in ensuring long and healthy lives for its residents. Additionally, Switzerland has some of the lowest hospital **admission rates** for preventable diseases. For instance, the hospital admission rate for chronic respiratory diseases is 28 per 100,000 people, much lower than the OECD average of 46 per 100,000.

In addition, the healthcare system is recognized for its comparative **cost efficiency**, providing high-quality services at a competitive cost. While Swiss healthcare spending accounts for 11.3% of GDP, higher than the OECD average of 9.1% [1], the country's efficient use of resources make it a leader in cost-effective healthcare.

References

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