

Sultanate of Oman

National Health Policy

2025





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Foreword

H.E. Dr. Hilal Bin Ali Al Sabti Minister of Health

Health is the top national priority in **the Sultanate of Oman Vision 2040**, serving as a fundamental pillar for sustainable development and societal well-being. It reflects Sultanate of Oman's commitment to ensuring a high quality of life for every individual. In this context, the issuance of the National Health Policy represents a comprehensive strategic framework aimed at strengthening the health system, enhancing the efficiency of healthcare services, and achieving the principle of **«Health for All, by All»** through the adoption of innovative and sustainable national policies (such as One Health Policy).

The health sector in the Sultanate of Oman has witnessed remarkable progress over the past decades, leading to improved health indicators and an enhanced quality of life. However, global health developments—including demographic and epidemiological transitions, evolving disease patterns, and rapid technological advancements—necessitate the adoption of flexible and dynamic national policies grounded in scientific evidence and best practices. This ensures the sustainability and efficiency of the health system in the Sultanate of Oman addressing future challenges.

The National Health Policy is the result of extensive national efforts and close collaboration among various health sectors and relevant stakeholders. It has been developed through a participatory approach to ensure its alignment with national priorities and development strategies. Furthermore, it underscores Sultanate of Oman's commitment to playing an active role in regional and global health, leveraging international expertise and experiences to strengthen the health system's capacity in delivering high-quality and efficient healthcare services.

We firmly believe that achieving the ambitious goals of the National Health Policy requires continuous commitment from all stakeholders. In addition to ongoing efforts to develop national policies and programs, investment in human capital, and the promotion of innovation and health and keeping up with the technology advancements. We also emphasize the importance of community partnerships, recognizing that health is a shared responsibility that can only be realized through collective efforts and collaboration across all sectors and individuals.

As we launch Sultanate of Oman's National Health Policy, we look forward to it serving as a clear roadmap for a healthier and more sustainable future, a fundamental reference for decision-makers, ensuring the establishment of an integrated, equitable, and sustainable health system capable of meeting the needs of all residents.

May Allah grant us success in achieving the goals of this national policy, bringing prosperity and well-being to our beloved nation and its people.



Introduction

His Excellency Dr. Ahmed bin Salem Al-Mandhari Undersecretary for Health Planning and Regulation

The contribution to the comprehensive and sustainable developmental renaissance that our beloved nation is witnessing is a shared responsibility that falls upon everyone. The health sector is a fundamental pillar in this journey, striving not only to provide services but also to evolve into a developmental sector that supports economic growth and enhances societal well-being. In this regard, the Ministry of Health, following a collaborative approach with various relevant sectors, has worked to update the national health policy to align with this concept.

The priorities of the National Health Policy include achieving comprehensive and sustainable health coverage of high quality for all residents, ensuring informed and effective community and sectoral participation. It also focuses on establishing an advanced health sector infrastructure characterized by modern technologies and innovative information and research systems, supported by sustainable human and material resources. Within a framework of sound governance, the policy aims to create an attractive and motivating work environment for healthcare professionals while emphasizing the importance of fostering a health-supportive environment that promotes healthy lifestyles in all aspects. Additionally, it seeks to build a comprehensive national system for effectively managing various public health emergencies through preparedness, response, and containment strategies.

The common factor across all these priorities is empowering all sectors related to health and enhancing the active role of all residents in Oman to ensure effective participation and benefit from the health system in planning, implementation, and monitoring. It also emphasizes strengthening partnerships among these stakeholders, reinforcing them, and leveraging their contributions to serve the objectives of the National Health Policy. This includes mobilizing human and material resources and utilizing them efficiently, equitably, and fairly to promote population health, thereby ensuring sustainability and self-reliance.

Finally, it is essential to emphasize that health is not the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Health but rather a collective, collaborative, and shared responsibility. Every sector plays a crucial role in the healthcare process, contributing to better health outcomes for everyone residing in the Sultanate of Oman. This stems from our belief that a healthy individual—physically and mentally—is the foundation of comprehensive economic and social development.

Health for All by All

Cooperation, Synergy and Solidarity

- Translating the Basic Statute of the State concerning Health¹.
- In order to achieve the strategic objectives associated with the health priority within the **Oman Vision 2040**.
- Recognizing that the population of the Sultanate of Oman is the target of comprehensive health development and is the focus of its work.
- Committed to make the Sultanate of Oman's health system well-equipped and well-positioned to enable the population to benefit and participate actively in it, in terms of planning, implementation and monitoring.
- In order to ensure the continuous development of the health system and to enhance its role, performance, programs and enablers, to achieve quality health service, promote the health of the population and improve the quality of their lives.
- In pursuit of the principle of partnership between all health stakeholders to achieve the principle of **«Health for All by All»**.
- In fulfilment of the national development plans in health-related areas.
- Facilitating the mobilization and use of human and material resources for health in a fair and equitable manner that ensures sustainability and self-reliance; and
- In fulfilment of the role, contributions and commitments of the Sultanate of Oman to international health in the Gulf, regional and global levels.

Purpose

Sustainable health and well-being of the entire population with shared responsibility by everyone.

Mission

Ensuring a healthy and integrated life for all residents in the Sultanate of Oman by mobilizing all health-related capacities, efforts and resources, and working with a spirit of teamwork.

Basic Pillars

1. Considering health as a state of complete physical, mental, psychological and social wellbeing and not just the absence of disease or disability. It is thus a fundamental right guaranteed to the entire population of the Sultanate of Oman, and is perceived in an integrated and holistic manner.
2. The population of the Sultanate of Oman is the primary focus of holistic and integrated health care, and are engaged in the health process to enhance their responsibility towards the health of the individual and society.
3. The health system, with all its partners, is responsible for providing and delivering the best comprehensive, safe and equitable health care to the entire population, ensuring that they are protected from the negative health impacts and adapting methods for health protection and promotion to prevent illness and manage it effectively when it occurs.
4. An advanced health sector structure based on modern technologies, information and research systems, and supported by sustainable human and material resources, is the cornerstone for achieving complete health for all
5. Considering health as a collective, collaborative and participatory responsibility, involving the government and the private sectors, civil society organizations, families and individuals in an integrated manner, each within their respective competence and role.
6. Public health is the umbrella through which community efforts are enhanced to improve health and provide the appropriate conditions that enable people to stay healthy, or prevent health deterioration, through disease prevention and control and attention to all aspects of health and well-being.
7. The availability and safety of air, water, food and the environment and protecting them from risk factors affecting the public health of the population are essential pillars for promoting healthy lifestyles and safety.
8. Primary health care (PHC) is the fundamental pillar of the health system, upon which the rest of the health care levels are built, while ensuring integration and inclusiveness, and the provision of high quality, safe, fair and equitable services that are readily accessible throughout the Sultanate of Oman.

9. All health programs and services delivered to all groups of the population should be based on their needs, in alignment with the basic principles of the State, Sharia rules and community norms and traditions, and appropriate to the specific goals that serve them and contribute to improving their health and quality of life, and should be evidence-based, drawing from successful models, best practices and the latest technologies.
10. Effective Leadership, good governance, an attractive working environment and motivating staff in all health areas are key elements in empowering the health system and enhancing its performance.
11. Striving to secure human resources in various health-related disciplines, working to develop and advance them, improve their work environment, motivate them, and ensuring a clear career progression to guarantee their retention.
12. The private sector is an active partner in health development. It has full opportunity to act, invest and contribute within the framework of positive public-private partnership to enhance its positive role in accordance with the laws, regulations, governance and oversight mechanisms applicable in the Sultanate of Oman.
13. Addressing emergencies and disasters is a top priority when they occur, with the necessary human and material resources mobilized to address and contain them as quickly as possible.

Strategic Objectives of Health

(As stated in Oman Vision 2040)



1 A healthy society free of health risks and hazards, where “health is the responsibility of all”.

2 A decentralized healthcare system operating with quality, transparency, fairness, and accountability.

3 Qualified national talents and capabilities leading scientific research and innovation in healthcare.

4 Technology-driven medical systems and services, and high-quality preventive and clinical healthcare across all levels.

5 Diversified and sustainable funding sources for the healthcare system.

Strategic Enablers

1. Stimulating, encouraging and sponsoring the initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting the health of the individual and society through its various institutions, adopting healthy lifestyles and behaviors, addressing the various factors that negatively impact health, and strengthening disease prevention and control methods.
2. Empowering the health media to raise community awareness and health culture in order to contribute to promoting healthy lifestyles.
3. Strengthening the principle of cooperation and transparency among all partners in the Sultanate of Oman's health sector and reinforcing the partnership among them, and pushing towards integration among all parties.
4. Empowering the society and ensuring that it is actively engaged in achieving «Health for All by All», and developing appropriate mechanisms for its participation as individuals, families, communities and civil society organizations towards achieving the goals of comprehensive health development.
5. Working towards building a resilient and integrated health system that takes into account the safety of all factors affecting health, such as air, water, food, sanitation, waste, chemicals and biological substances, and others, and the health system is prepared for all possible climate changes.
6. Developing an integrated and sustainable system of leadership and governance to efficiently and effectively manage the health system, fostering leadership development at various levels, and allows for greater decentralization in the management and distribution of health services.
7. Developing a talent stimulating, supportive and attractive work environment in all health-related sectors.
8. Developing laws and regulations that define the medical liability, regulate practice and accountability mechanisms, take the necessary measures to minimize medical errors and their effects, and regulate professional ethics.
9. Developing, advancing and qualifying health human resources being the cornerstone of sustainable health development, working to raise their capabilities and skills, and striving to achieve self-sufficiency and retention of human resources.
10. Expanding the coverage of high-quality healthcare at all levels to meet the population needs, gain their trust and satisfaction and make it accessible in a convenient, equitable, safe and sustainable manner.
11. Strengthening preparedness and readiness for health emergencies and disasters, and establishing an integrated national system that is ready for immediate response, action and containment.
12. Continuous development of the research and information system to enable evidence-based decision-making and stimulate creativity, innovation and excellence in all health-related areas.
13. Keeping up with the latest scientific, technological and information advancements in various health-related fields, and working to assess and provide them within the health system.
14. Strengthening and developing the contribution to international health regionally and globally by various means possible in different health areas and developing relationships with regional and global health organizations.

Strategic Actions to Implement the National Health Policy

In fulfilment of the National Health Policy and its strategic objectives, partners², each within their area of expertise and according to their role, will take the necessary actions and measures related to protecting and enhancing health in a manner that achieves those objectives, through mutual coordination and collaboration in various areas and endeavor to achieve the following:

1. Develop and promulgate legislation, laws and regulations that meet the objectives of the national health policy and adopt national and global standards that preserve the population health when making relevant decisions.
2. Formation of health councils and national committees, and creating collaborative platforms that foster teamwork, strengthen the roles of partners and ensure maximum contribution to health development.
3. Translate the National Health Policy into strategic programs, projects and regulations at various levels by all partners, ensuring that each partner develops programs, formulate detailed health policies in the areas of their respective sectors and prepares the necessary implementation plans.
4. Comprehensive and cross-sectoral strategic and executive planning, collaboratively developed by relevant sectors with clear, measurable objectives, and designing programs necessary to protect the health, ensure quality, human safety, environment preservation and the sustainability of natural resources.
5. Secure the necessary resources to achieve the goals of the National Health Policy through diverse and sustainable financing methods by organizing private sector engagement, health investment and health endowment, ensuring positive returns on the health of the population efficiently and effectively, and prepare a national strategy for sustainable financing of the health sector.
6. Develop a national health education strategy aimed at developing human cadres in all health-related disciplines, enhancing their capacities and skills, striving for self-sufficiency in various health professions, and creating an inspiring, supportive work environment that attracts talents.
7. Develop a comprehensive behavioral health strategy that includes enhancing mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and measuring the behavioral health of all groups of the society
8. Preventing diseases, monitoring and combating their causes, addressing their effects, identifying and assessing the risks associated with them, establishing controls, and introducing technologies that contribute to reducing risks to the lowest possible level, with ongoing efforts to upgrade them.
9. Full preparedness and readiness for health emergencies caused by pathological, epidemiological or natural disasters, and effective and immediate response when they occur, aimed at preserving public health, managing, containing and recovering from emergencies, and addressing shelter and evacuation needs.
10. Focusing on environmental health and safety, pest and pollution control, preservation of diverse ecosystems, and nature conservation.
11. Focusing on occupational health and safety by implementing all necessary measures to ensure well-

being, both in the workplace and through professional regulations and standards that govern various professions.

12. Use the latest scientific technologies and technological advancements in all health-related areas, after conducting the necessary assessment of such technologies and taking into account the values and needs of the Omani society in a manner that ensures safe application, achieves sustainable improvement and honors ethics.
13. Raising health awareness in the society to encourage all individuals to actively participate in promoting their health, developing a sense of responsibility for protecting and maintaining it, and instilling the concepts of «Health for All by All».
14. Adopt the “One-Health approach”³ in the protection of agricultural and livestock resources from pests and diseases, protecting wealth and associated resources, and ensuring the quality, safety and availability of clean water and healthy food.
15. Ensuring the safety of various facilities, including housing, laboratories, workplaces, markets, roads, slaughterhouses, cemeteries, and the removal, treatment or safe disposal of waste to ensure the preservation of health in all these areas.
16. Conduct health-related studies, research and surveys and create health databases for each sector to support the implementation of the National Health Policy.
17. Ensure pharmaceutical security (in terms of pharmaceutical safety and availability), encourage and support the national pharmaceutical industries, and work towards self-sufficiency.
18. Ensure the rational, safe and responsible use of medicines and regulate various medicines, drugs, pharmaceuticals and chemicals in all sectors.
19. Provide integrated care for all priority groups of the society⁴, and develop appropriate strategies to achieve the health goals associated with each group.
20. Adhering to quality standards in all efforts contributing to the achievement of the national health policy, encouraging initiatives and development systems, and considering national and international recognition and accreditation standards and requirements.
21. Establish appropriate monitoring, follow-up, supervision and evaluation mechanisms that include identifying and measuring indicators to assess achievements, strengthen coordination, prepare various reports, provide feedback and establish a clear accountability framework with the aim of improving and advancing the services delivered.

¹ Article 15 (Para. 6) of Oman’s Basic Statute states: “The state shall guarantee healthcare for citizens and shall endeavor to provide means for the prevention and treatment of diseases and epidemics. It shall encourage the establishment of private hospitals and treatment centres under the supervision of the state and in the manner prescribed by the law.”

² Partners in health are: Anyone who plays a role in achieving the objectives of the National Health Policy, whether through health promotion, prevention, or treatment and rehabilitation, regardless of whether they are public or private sectors, individuals or groups, including all the institutions, agencies and facilities that contribute to the promotion and protection of health and the delivery of health services.

³ The “One Health approach” is an integrated and unified approach that aims to achieving sustainable balance and improving the health of individuals, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the broader environment (including ecosystems) are inextricably linked and interdependent.

⁴ Priority community groups mean all groups most at risk, including children, mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, and people with mental illnesses.