



Strategic Purchasing for Telemedicine in SRH

Salma El-Gamal

Background

Sexual and Reproductive health services (SRH) are key in improving health outcomes, but COVID-19 has exacerbated challenges to access the services. There has been a global shift towards person-centred care models designed around people's needs, including telemedicine approaches paving a unique pathway towards a person-centred SRH services.

Methods

This scoping review analysed challenges to access to SRH services during the pandemic and purchasing arrangements for telehealth, to determine how tailoring purchasing arrangement for SRH services can promote person-centred approaches and improve care value within the context of COVID-19. The search strategy was done through a combination of keywords using PubMed and Google Scholar databases.

Results

A total of 23 of peer-reviewed and grey literature documents were reviewed. Findings suggests that access and utilization of SRH services severely declined during the COVID-19 pandemic due to a number of factors including pandemic's mitigation approaches, lack of transportations and financial barriers. Telemedicine technologies have the potential to solve SRH services' disruptions amid the pandemic and improve access but usually lack clear reimbursement policies upon implementation. There is an opportunity to use purchasing arrangements to adjust the service delivery model and introduce innovations that are more suitable to the pandemic context.

Conclusion

The current global situation warrants an imperative need to rethink an efficient use of resources and design health systems around the individual. There is a considerable potential to improve care value through tailoring purchasing arrangements that align provider incentives with person-centred practices.

References

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