

Component 4: Health Systems and Health Policy

1. Organization of Clinical and Public Health Systems

Topic areas	Illustrative examples
A. Clinical health services	Continuum of care – ambulatory, home, hospital, long-term care; components—pharmaceutical and device industry, healthcare institutions, healthcare providers, biomedical researchers
B. Public health system responsibilities	Core functions of public health, essential services of public health
C. Structure of public health systems	Federal, state, county, and local agencies; boards of health; community-based organizations
D. Collaboration between clinical practice and public health	Reportable diseases and conditions; death certificate completion; emergency response; health education, advocacy

2. Health Services Financing

Topic areas	Illustrative examples
A. Insurance coverage and reimbursement for clinical services	Variations in service coverage; deductibles; co-pays; provider networks; provider and institutional charges; Medicaid, Medicare
B. Health care for the uninsured or underinsured	Safety net providers including Federally Qualified Health Centers; emergency room use
C. Financing of healthcare institutions	Capital vs. operational budgets, fixed vs. variable costs, sources of financing
D. Financing of public health services	Federal, state, and local taxes; public health budgets
E. Impact on health of different health services financing mechanisms	International comparisons
F. Ethical principles associated with healthcare financing	Distributive justice models, concepts of efficiency and equity; financing objectives and their impact on health and healthcare services (access, primary vs. specialty services, diagnostic and treatment technologies)

3. Clinical and Public Health Workforce

Topic areas	Illustrative examples
A. Regulating health professionals and healthcare institutions	Certification, licensure, institutional accreditation
B. Discipline-specific history, philosophy, roles and responsibilities	Diversity in workforce composition to include underrepresented or disadvantaged groups
C. Interprofessional team approach	Joint clinical and public health education and practice
D. Legal and ethical responsibilities of health professionals	Patient privacy/HIPAA, privileged communications, duty to report

4. Health Policy Process

Topic areas	Illustrative examples
A. Process of health policy making at local, state, and federal levels	Public hearings and comment periods, authorizations vs. appropriations
B. Participation in the policy process	Advisory roles, policy analysis and advocacy
C. Role and impact of policies on health and health care	Impact on the general population, on vulnerable populations, and on health disparities
D. Ethical frameworks for public health decision-making	Weighing individual needs and community needs; community input and consent; respect for diverse values and beliefs