Saudi Arabia’s Health Care Reform

Hossam Alakhrass¹

¹Department of Public Health, Maternity and Children’s Hospital, Ministry of Health, Dammam, Saudi Arabia.


Abstract

Saudi Arabia is among others facing healthcare challenges while as the government tries as much to clear the hindrances to good health and health facilities. Health is a vital part of the ecosystem rendering it high priority and activeness in implementing strategies to better it. Creation of Aco’s has brought about evident and evolutionary changes to health systems in Saudi Arabia. Moreover, The Triple Aim objective - better health, healthcare, and care-value - is the focus of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s health and healthcare transformation effort. Multiple interventions and reform procedures are included in the Transformation initiative, ranging from healthcare system governance with new actors and roles, to service delivery, to the funding system. The KSA’s ethos and leading strategy to driving transformational change nationally and across all system tiers is defined by Population Health Management (PHM). By encouraging prevention, early detection, integrated, and individualized care, PHM attempts to combine the focus on population health with the enhancement of quality of care and health outcomes.

Accountable care organizations and vision 2030

➢ Formation and progress of ACO’s

Objectives of ACO’s

➢ Economic diversifications

➢ Cost containment

Vision 2030 Positive Changes

➢ Positive change

Keywords: health care, reformation, ACO, abstract, transformation, Saudi Arabia, Vision 2030

1. Introduction

Like many other high-income countries, Saudi Arabia has encountered significant health care challenges due to the ageing population, significant care variation, and overutilization of intense care. Currently, governments across the world have initiated programs intended to enhance holistic growth across all sectors making the kingdom of Saudi Arabia remain active and cognizant with health issues affecting its demographics. Consequently, a number of factors have instigated the current need for transformation in the country’s healthcare sector;
Saudi’s population is increasing and also more people are ageing. The population is anticipated to increase from 33 million in 2013 to approximately 40 million by 2030 (Al Asmri, Almalki, Fitzgerald, & Clark, 2020).

The current levels of primary care are inconsistent, inadequate and inaccessible to some areas.

The current healthcare system is resource centric instead of being patient centered causing substantial gaps in the quality of healthcare delivery to patients.

**Accountable care organizations and vision 2030**

The formation of Accountable Care Organizations was meant to curb the following areas; quality of service and as a part of efficiency deficit inclusive of workforce productivity and unwarranted all through ACOs (Alomi, Alghamdi, Alattyh & Elshenawy, 2018). To curb this problem the kingdom initialized as a part of vision 2030 a healthcare transformation plan with a target to revitalize and diversify the kingdom’s economy. The objective set includes;

- Improving service quality and consistency
- Increasing citizens’ life expectancy while containing costs.

The formation of Accountable Care Organizations was meant to curb the following areas; quality of service and as a part of efficiency deficit inclusive of workforce productivity and unwarranted all through ACOs (Alomi, Alghamdi, Alattyh & Elshenawy, 2018). To curb this problem the kingdom initialized as a part of vision 2030 a healthcare transformation plan with a target to revitalize and diversify the kingdom’s economy. The objective set includes;

- Improving service quality and consistency
- Increasing citizens’ life expectancy while containing costs.

Each of the networks will be rewarded relevant wages to provide the suite of services to each insured person. The network’s yearly block budget will embody a mix of full capitation thus (manifesting the gross cost of the EBP for the population of individuals designated to public coverage) and fractional capitation (showing the expense of bringing care in positions to particulars lacking public coverage). According to Walston, Al-Harbi & Al-Omar (2008), the wellness program transformation plan aims at boosting private health care expenditure from 25% to 35% of total health expenditure by end of 2020 to achieve;

**2. Method**

**Accountable care organizations and vision 2030**

The formation of Accountable Care Organizations was meant to curb the following areas; quality of service and as a part of efficiency deficit inclusive of workforce productivity and unwarranted all through ACOs (Alomi, Alghamdi, Alattyh & Elshenawy, 2018). To curb this problem the kingdom initialized as a part of vision 2030 a healthcare transformation plan with a target to revitalize and diversify the kingdom’s economy. The objective set includes;

- Improving service quality and consistency
- Increasing citizens’ life expectancy while containing costs.
Saudi Arabia is the first country to dual-process payment and care delivery reform, their healthcare transformation plan has an aggressive objective of pushing ACOs towards risk-adjusted capitated funding. In phase 1 of the refine the Saudi Arabia Ministry of health will initiate an Essential Benefits Package (EBP) that prescribe quality standards for all insured patients (Al Otaibi, 2017).

Each of the networks will be rewarded relevant wages to provide the suite of services to each insured person. The network’s yearly block budget will embody a mix of full capitation thus (manifesting the gross cost of the EBP for the population of individuals designated to public coverage) and fractional capitation (showing the expense of bringing care in positions to particulars lacking public coverage). According to Walston, Al-Harbi & Al-Omar (2008), the wellness program transformation plan aims at boosting private health care expenditure from 25% to 35% of total health expenditure by end of 2020 to achieve;

Objectives of ACO’sv1

- Economic diversification: oil being their main commodity has reduced its market prices around the world and production slowed thus the kingdom plans to grow other areas in order to decrease its dependency on the commodity (Al Asmri, Almalki, Fitzgerald, & Clark, 2020).
- Cost containment: due to there being an aging population and above equate chronic disease rates, the public health spending rates rise thus the country is looking to the private sector to pick on some of the consumption and care (Al Saffer et al., 2021).

The kingdom is preparing the private division for growth by opening up more earning ways for individual companies by allowing private insurers to give supplemental wellness insurance to persons with EBP, public ACOs to hire out services to private associations, and foreign pharmaceutical companies to ascertain public-private relations with the public sector (Rahman, 2020).

Vision 2030 Positive Changes

The vision 2030 health care transformation plan has brought about positive change to Saudi Arabia’s citizens in that;

- It has led to a reduction of dependence on oil as the main commodity by developing other industries and sectors (Bassi, 2021).
- It has created an attractive environment for local and foreign investors by making them feel safe and secure health-wise (Bassi, 2021).
- It has led to the creation of jobs and the involvement of Saudi citizens in the workforce.
- It has brought about improved education and training dynamism for Saudi nationals.
- By merging with international companies it has revolutionized digital transformation thus improving day-to-day activities (Bassi, 2021).
Conclusion:
As a result, ACO transformation is a vital step for identifying and measuring health needs and informing health investment strategies for the optimal health outcomes. ACO transformation is required to assist in the creation of the Cluster's maturity towards ACO which will make a significant difference in the health of our population while providing good value for money. This strategy must strike a balance between what should be done, what is feasible, and what can be afforded.

References