

17. Health: Universal Health Coverage

“We recall our commitment to moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems, in order to be able to reach the most affected communities.”

Sabel Partnership Action Plan

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Universal health coverage (UHC) was first mentioned in the 2000 G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in the context of improving accessibility and affordability of drugs, vaccines, treatments and other preventative measures in developing countries.¹⁴⁹⁴ Similarly, G8 members committed to developing equitable and effective health systems at the 2000 G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit.¹⁴⁹⁵

At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, members expressed support for African partners’ commitment according to the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure all children have access to basic healthcare by 2015 to reduce deaths from preventable causes amongst those most at risk, including women and children.¹⁴⁹⁶ To provide support, members agreed to invest in improving health systems in partnership with African governments by helping train doctors, nurses, community health workers and other health professionals.¹⁴⁹⁷ In light of the aim of AIDS-free generation in Africa, members agreed to work with international organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO) to “develop and implement a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care” to strive for universal access of such packages by 2010.¹⁴⁹⁸ Financing needs for HIV/AIDS will be fulfilled by replenishment of Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.¹⁴⁹⁹ To support the Polio Eradication Initiative, members will continue or increase contributions towards the USD829 million target; the funding gap for 2005 was met.¹⁵⁰⁰ Members also agreed to contribute an additional

¹⁴⁹⁴ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G8 (Okunawa) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

¹⁴⁹⁵ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G8 (Okunawa) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

¹⁴⁹⁶ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

¹⁴⁹⁷ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

¹⁴⁹⁸ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

¹⁴⁹⁹ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁰ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

USD1.5 billion per year to improve access to malaria prevention interventions such as anti-malaria insecticide treated nets, adequate supplies for combination therapies, household residual spraying to reduce the burden of malaria as one of the major causes of death in sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁵⁰¹ G7 leaders took healthcare off of the agenda until the 2008 Toyako Summit.

At the 2008 Toyako Summit, members expressed that they were on track with fighting various infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and measles. However reaching towards the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remained a challenge.¹⁵⁰² Members expressed that they were “determined to honor in full their specific commitments to fight infectious diseases, namely malaria, tuberculosis, polio and working towards the goal of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care by 2010.”¹⁵⁰³ Members agreed that a comprehensive approach is needed to address strengthening health systems.¹⁵⁰⁴ For sustainable and equitable financing of health systems, members noted they would work with government partners, and welcome the efforts of organizations such as Providing for Health Initiative, International Health Partnership and the Catalytic Initiative to achieve the goal of providing USD60 billion to fight infectious diseases and strengthen health systems.¹⁵⁰⁵ Members also stated that they would work with WHO to recruit and retain more health professionals to work towards a ratio of 2.3 health workers per 100 people.¹⁵⁰⁶ Considering that MDGs were off track for child mortality and maternal health, members agreed to focus on universal reproductive care.¹⁵⁰⁷ Members agreed to continue to fulfil past commitments on malaria by expanding access to insecticide treated nets, with the goal of providing 100 million nets through bilateral and multilateral assistance in partnership with other stakeholders by 2010.¹⁵⁰⁸ The 2008 Toyako Summit marked the last summit to address Universal Health Coverage issues until the 2014 Brussels Summit.

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, commitment to improving universal access to affordable and equitable health services was made in relation to improving health of women and children.¹⁵⁰⁹ Members stated they were committed to improving health of women and children by “ensuring universal access to affordable, quality, essential health services, strengthening health, education and child protection systems and improving nutrition and access to immunisation.”¹⁵¹⁰ Members will work with GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance to provide vaccines to 30 million children between 2016 and 2020 and to replenish the GAVI fund with help from other public and private donors.¹⁵¹¹ To address the threat

¹⁵⁰¹ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

¹⁵⁰² G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

¹⁵⁰³ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁴ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁵ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁶ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁷ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁸ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁹ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

¹⁵¹⁰ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

¹⁵¹¹ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

of infectious diseases, members noted their support for Global Health Security Agenda and committed to “working with partner countries to strengthen compliance with the WHO’s International Health Regulations (IHR) and enhance health security around the world.”¹⁵¹²

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, “enjoyment of highest attainable standard of health” was recognized as a fundamental human right of every being for the first time.¹⁵¹³ Members committed to focus on strengthening health systems, specifically through bilateral programs and multilateral structures.¹⁵¹⁴

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members acknowledged their commitment to ensure well-being of citizens and foster inclusive economic growth by committing to promote UHC.¹⁵¹⁵ Members also expressed that they will take leadership in reinforcing response to public health emergencies and antimicrobial resistance and promote research and development in these areas, amongst others.¹⁵¹⁶

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 members committed to “advancing global health security” and “pursuing policies that advance physical and mental health improvements” across the globe.¹⁵¹⁷ They recognized that healthy well-being is important to various economic, social and security gains.¹⁵¹⁸ They committed to “strengthening health systems” to prepare for responding to public health emergencies and other long-term challenges.¹⁵¹⁹

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members committed to building “strong, sustainable health systems that promote access to quality and affordable healthcare.”¹⁵²⁰ Members recognized that this commitment will enable them to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure that citizens lead healthy and productive lives.¹⁵²¹ Members recognized the WHO’s role in health emergencies through avenues such as Contingency Fund for Emergencies and World Bank’s Pandemic Emergency Financing facility amongst others and emphasized their need for further development and continued and sustainable financing.¹⁵²² Furthermore, members also recommitted to support 76 partners to strengthen implementation of IHR through development of national action

¹⁵¹² G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

¹⁵¹³ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

¹⁵¹⁴ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

¹⁵¹⁵ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

¹⁵¹⁶ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

¹⁵¹⁷ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

¹⁵¹⁸ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

¹⁵¹⁹ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

¹⁵²⁰ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

¹⁵²¹ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

¹⁵²² G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

plans and use of diverse sources of funding and multi-stakeholder resources.¹⁵²³ G7 members reaffirmed their support for replenishment of Global Fund 2019.¹⁵²⁴

G7 members' ongoing commitment to strengthening health systems and improving universal health coverage demonstrates their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a resolution unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015.¹⁵²⁵ This commitment is in line with SDG 3, which is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages," particularly SDG 3.8 which is to ensure UHC.¹⁵²⁶

Commitment Features

The G7 committed to "moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems, in order to be able to reach the most affected communities. This commitment is aimed at moving towards universal health coverage based on national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems. UHC is a key aspect of a resilient and sustainable health system. Hence, full compliance will be defined by the strength of the members' effort to move towards achieving UHC. Within the commitment, the G7 did not specify policies or instruments through which these targets can be met. As such, examples of what actions count towards partial and full compliance are guided by relevant G7 documents and the leading institution on health, the WHO.

To "commit" is understood to mean to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or organization) to a certain course or policy.¹⁵²⁷

To "move towards" is understood to mean taking additional steps and should include new initiatives in the area. It should not include past compliance efforts or continued fulfilment of old promises.

"Universal" is understood to mean all of the intended group. It should not be interpreted to mean a partial or percentage of the whole. It should not be interpreted to mean a small amount or a minority.¹⁵²⁸

"Coverage" is defined as the proportion of a population needing an intervention who receive it. Coverage is influenced by supply (provision of services) and by demand from people in need of services.¹⁵²⁹

"According to national contexts and priorities" should be understood as taking actions in line with domestic goals and policies.

The WHO definition of "universal health coverage" is that "all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient

¹⁵²³ G7 Leaders' Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

¹⁵²⁴ G7 Leaders' Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

¹⁵²⁵ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development UN (New York) 25 September 2015. Access date: 31 October 2017. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

¹⁵²⁶ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development UN (New York) 25 September 2015. Access date: 31 October 2017. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

¹⁵²⁷ Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

¹⁵²⁸ Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

¹⁵²⁹ Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.”¹⁵³⁰ Three components of this definition are: equity in access to health services, quality of health services should be good enough to improve health of service receivers, and cost of services should not pose a risk of financial harm. These three points will be referenced to assess whether an action or initiative is considered compliant. Examples of compliance include policies or initiatives targeted towards improving universal healthcare, donation of monetary funds or human resources to organizations for universal health coverage and establishing working groups or holding cooperative meetings to ensure progress towards achieving universal healthcare.

Further examples are derived from the WHO definition of a “health system” as the activities, people, institutions and resources whose goals are to maintain and improve health and combat ill health under the umbrella of policy.¹⁵³¹ The WHO outlines “a robust financing mechanism; a well-trained and adequately paid workforce; reliable information on which to base decisions and policies; well-maintained facilities and logistics to deliver quality medicines and technologies” as essential components of all strong health systems.¹⁵³²

“Resilient” is to be understood as the ability to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.¹⁵³³ “Sustainable” is to be understood as the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.¹⁵³⁴ “In order to reach the most affected communities” is to be understood as recognizing the unique challenges faced by such communities and implementing policies or initiatives to target such challenges.

Members’ policies and initiatives must specifically target one or more components of a strong health system as outlined by WHO. To achieve full compliance, policies and initiatives must be accessible to all citizens, specifically in communities most affected by a certain challenge, and be resilient and sustainable.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must: 1. take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage, and 2. take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

If only one of two thresholds or parts of this commitment is fulfilled, G7 members will receive a score of 0, or partial compliance. For instance, if a G7 member ensures that action is taken aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage, but does not address actions taken aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, it will earn a score of partial compliance.

A score of –1, or no compliance, will be assigned if a G7 member exemplifies no demonstrable compliance with either component of this commitment.

¹⁵³⁰ What is health financing for universal coverage? WHO. Access date:

https://www.who.int/health_financing/universal_coverage_definition/en/.

¹⁵³¹ Health Systems Strengthening Glossary, WHO. Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.who.int/healthsystems/hss_glossary/en/index5.html.

¹⁵³² Health Systems, WHO. Access date: 30 October 2017. http://www.who.int/topics/health_systems/en/.

¹⁵³³ Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/resilience>.

¹⁵³⁴ Lexico Oxford Dictionary. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/sustainable>.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does NOT take any actions aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage NOR has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.
0	G7 member has taken action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage OR has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.
+1	G7 member has taken action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage AND has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

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Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 20 September 2019, Health Canada authorized the use of Lenvima (lenvatinib) and Keytruda (pembrolizumab) for women who have advanced endometrial cancer under Project Orbis.¹⁵³⁵ Project Orbis is a collaborative project where the regulators from U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Health Canada and the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration, review cancer drugs at the same time to expedite access for patients in Canada, United States of America and Australia.¹⁵³⁶

On 21 November 2019, Health Canada authorized the use Calquence (acalabrutinib), a new therapy for adults with chronic lymphocytic leukemia under Project Orbis.¹⁵³⁷

On 21 November 2019, the federal Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) announced that it would launch a 60-day consultation period with stakeholders and members of the public.¹⁵³⁸ This consultation is to evaluate the earlier proposed changes to the Patented Medicines Regulations on 9 August 2019.¹⁵³⁹ PMPRB also announced new draft guidelines outlining steps taken by PMPRB staff to assess whether a patented drug is excessively priced and information that pharmaceutical companies must provide for PMPRB staff to make that decision. The Patented Medicines

¹⁵³⁵ International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

¹⁵³⁶ International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

¹⁵³⁷ International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

¹⁵³⁸ Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/news/2019/11/federal-watchdog-seeks-publics-opinion-on-how-to-protect-canadians-from-excessively-priced-patented-medicines.html>.

¹⁵³⁹ Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/news/2019/11/federal-watchdog-seeks-publics-opinion-on-how-to-protect-canadians-from-excessively-priced-patented-medicines.html>.

Regulations regulates Canada's pricing framework for patented drugs and is meant to protect Canadians from excessively high drug costs.¹⁵⁴⁰

On 19 December 2019, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations announced funding of CAD2.5 million over the next two years to support a community-driven Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment.¹⁵⁴¹ This investment aids the delivery of holistic short-term and long-term solutions focused on the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of First Nations people.¹⁵⁴² Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations outlined their support to build the Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment in Saskatoon, Treaty Six Territory, Saskatchewan.¹⁵⁴³ Indigenous Services Canada also announced an investment of Approximately CAD425 million towards various initiatives towards life promotion and suicide prevention, including a Hope for Wellness Helpline.¹⁵⁴⁴

Canada has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by addressing stigma and investing in health of First Nations communities and with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by improving access to alternative cancer therapies and maintaining costs of patented drugs.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arshdeep Anlakh

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

¹⁵⁴⁰ Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/news/2019/11/federal-watchdog-seeks-publics-opinion-on-how-to-protect-canadians-from-excessively-priced-patented-medicines.html>.

¹⁵⁴¹ Addressing stigma in Canada's health system is critical for improving health outcomes, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2019/12/addressing-stigma-in-canadas-health-system-is-critical-for-improving-health-outcomes.html>.

¹⁵⁴² Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

¹⁵⁴³ Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁴ Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

On 19 September 2019, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe met with pharmaceutical manufacturers in Matignon to discuss the shortages of medications in hospitals. Shortages can be attributed to problems in the supply chain.^{1545,1546}

On 15 October 2019, the National Assembly passed a bill, as part of a larger bioethics bill, that serves to legalize in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment for lesbian and single women within the country.¹⁵⁴⁷ Previously, only infertile heterosexual couple were legally qualified for the treatment.¹⁵⁴⁸ IVF is a medically assisted reproduction method through donated sperm.¹⁵⁴⁹ The bill, pending Senate approval, ensures that the costs of IVF for all women under the age of 43 are fully covered by the healthcare system.¹⁵⁵⁰ However, clinicians at France's network of public sperm banks noted that the "current supply just meets the demand" and that France may face shortage.¹⁵⁵¹

On 12 November 2019, President of France Emmanuel Macron and President of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Félix Tshisekedi expressed support for the French-Congolese roadmap, developed by Professor Yves Lévy from France and Professor Muyembe from DRC, to fight against the Ebola epidemic.¹⁵⁵² Three components of the roadmap include: an emergency humanitarian response to provide ground-level support in DRC, strengthening the scientific partnership between French researchers and National Institute for Biomedical Research in Kinshasa and development efforts to strengthen Congolese health system.¹⁵⁵³ France pledged EUR71 million for healthcare in DRC between 2019 and 2021 and will make resources from Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs,

¹⁵⁴⁵ France medication shortage crisis prompts PM meeting, The Connexion (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-medication-hospital-and-pharmacy-shortage-crisis-prompts-PM-meeting>.

¹⁵⁴⁶ Health: French people worried about drug shortages, Franceinfo (Paris) 19 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/medicament/sante-les-francais-inquiets-par-les-penuries-de-medicaments_3623847.html.

¹⁵⁴⁷ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

¹⁵⁴⁸ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

¹⁵⁴⁹ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

¹⁵⁵⁰ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

¹⁵⁵¹ France may face sperm shortage under Macron plan to ease IVF rules, Reuters (Paris) 24 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-reform-ivf/france-may-face-sperm-shortage-under-macron-plan-to-ease-ivf-rules-idUSKBN1W917N>.

¹⁵⁵² Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

¹⁵⁵³ Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Ministry for the Armed Forces and Ministry of Solidarity and Health available to “put these efforts in practice.”¹⁵⁵⁴

On 20 November 2019, the French government promised to absorb approximately EUR10 billion worth of public hospital debt in order to end protests led by French medical professionals against multi-billion euro spending cuts in regards to the French healthcare system.¹⁵⁵⁵ This figure represents nearly one third of total debt.¹⁵⁵⁶ Prime Minister Edouard Philippe also promised an additional EUR1.5 billion over for hospitals, along with an EUR800 bonus for 40,000 nurses and other caretakers who earn less than EUR 1,900 per month.¹⁵⁵⁷

France has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by absorbing public hospital debts and with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by expanding access to assisted reproductive services.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Madison Leisk

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 21 September 2019, Health Minister Jens Spahn travelled to Mexico in order to speak with healthcare workers and offer a speedy visa process to those willing to move to Germany.¹⁵⁵⁸ These actions are aimed at addressing a shortage of nurses and ancillary staff within German care homes as the government faces the struggles of an aging population.¹⁵⁵⁹ Health Minister Jens Spahn also announced that the recognition of professional qualifications would also be accelerated for Mexican workers.¹⁵⁶⁰ These efforts are to meet the goal of finding 10 per cent more care workers to address the care worker crisis and growing need for care workers.¹⁵⁶¹

¹⁵⁵⁴ Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

¹⁵⁵⁵ France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmnh/health-pmnh/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

¹⁵⁵⁶ France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmnh/health-pmnh/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

¹⁵⁵⁷ France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmnh/health-pmnh/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

¹⁵⁵⁸ Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, DW Akademie (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

¹⁵⁵⁹ Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, DW Akademie (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

¹⁵⁶⁰ Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, DW Akademie (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

¹⁵⁶¹ Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, DW Akademie (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

On 7 November 2019, the Digital Supply Act was approved by Parliament, which aims to increasingly digitalize many of Germany's healthcare services. As a result of the new law, doctors will be able to prescribe digital health apps to their patients which can be reimbursed by country's statutory health insurance and receive payment for online consultations.¹⁵⁶² The Act also aims to phase out the use of paper by promoting e-prescriptions and providing higher rates of compensation to doctors who send electronic medical letters in comparison to other more traditional methods, such as faxes.¹⁵⁶³ The government claims that patient health records for those with statutory insurance will be completely electronic by 2021.¹⁵⁶⁴ The Act will also enable patient data from health insurance funds to be used by authorities as well as research institutes and university hospitals without their consent.¹⁵⁶⁵ Data for research use will be anonymized and used to gain "better insight into patients with chronic diseases," according to Health Minister Jens Spahn.¹⁵⁶⁶

On 14 November 2019, the Measles Protection Act was passed by Parliament, which aims to increase immunization rates by instituting compulsory measles vaccinations.¹⁵⁶⁷ As of March 2020, parents who fail to give their children the measles vaccination will be met with fines of up to EUR2,500.¹⁵⁶⁸ Additionally, unvaccinated children will risk being banned from their nursery or school.¹⁵⁶⁹ The law will also require staff in childcare facilities to be vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination.¹⁵⁷⁰ The new law aims to address increasingly high rates of vaccine hesitancy fuelled by the anti-vaccination movement and protect against rising rates of measles outbreaks.¹⁵⁷¹

On 29 November 2019, the Parliament passed Act to Improve Healthcare Provision through Digitalization and Innovation, which is continuation of Germany's efforts to become a world leader

¹⁵⁶² Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

¹⁵⁶³ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

¹⁵⁶⁴ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

¹⁵⁶⁵ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

¹⁵⁶⁶ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

¹⁵⁶⁷ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

¹⁵⁶⁸ German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

¹⁵⁶⁹ German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

¹⁵⁷⁰ German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

¹⁵⁷¹ German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

in the digitalization of healthcare.¹⁵⁷² The Act includes measures aimed at making healthcare apps available to patients more quickly, continuing to promote innovation in healthcare by investing EUR200 million per year until 2024 in the innovation fund, making it mandatory for pharmacies and hospitals to be connected with the growing digital infrastructure, making online video consultations commonplace, mandating health insurance funds to offer members opportunities to improve their digital health skills, creating a streamlined process for information collection, storage and exchange within hospital networks, and achieving optimal conditions for patient data protection by adapting provisions of the Fifth Book of Social Code.¹⁵⁷³

On 18 December 2019, Parliament passed a bill that will effectively place a ban on conversion therapy, which includes any practices aimed at “curing” individuals of their homosexuality.¹⁵⁷⁴ Starting 2020, any individuals found in violation of this law, whether by offering or advertising such services, will be sentenced with up to a year in prison and subject to fines of up to EUR30,000.¹⁵⁷⁵ According to Health Minister Jens Spahn, the new law seeks to recognize that homosexuality is not an illness and that these misleading practices cause undue harm, particularly to those who may be struggling with their sexuality.¹⁵⁷⁶

Germany has fully complied with their commitment to build a more resilient and sustainable health system, particularly through its efforts to digitalize healthcare services. Furthermore, the country has demonstrated efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Madison Leisk

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 30 August 2019, the Italy-China visit by delegations from the Italian Ministry of Health ended, with the discussions focused closely on avian influenza, swine vesicular disease and scientific cooperation as Italy expressed willingness to receive and host Chinese researchers at their institutes to collaborate on food virology research.¹⁵⁷⁷ Italy also noted that it aims to work with China to prevent another avian flu outbreak.¹⁵⁷⁸

On 17 September 2019, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza promoted patient equality, and safe use of medicines as national and global healthy priorities during a workshop organized by the Ministry of

¹⁵⁷² Digital Healthcare Act (DVG), Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 3 December 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/digital-healthcare-act.html>.

¹⁵⁷³ Digital Healthcare Act (DVG), Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 3 December 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/digital-healthcare-act.html>.

¹⁵⁷⁴ Germany moves to ban gay ‘conversion therapy’, France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

¹⁵⁷⁵ Germany moves to ban gay ‘conversion therapy’, France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

¹⁵⁷⁶ Germany moves to ban gay ‘conversion therapy’, France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

¹⁵⁷⁷ Export Italy-China, the visit of the Ministry of Health delegation ended, Ministry of Health (Rome), 30 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3872.

¹⁵⁷⁸ Export Italy-China, the visit of the Ministry of Health delegation ended, Ministry of Health (Rome), 30 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3872.

Health.¹⁵⁷⁹ Topics including National Health Service financing, training of healthcare providers and involvement of citizens to work together and improve patient safety levels across the country were discussed.¹⁵⁸⁰

On 29 September 2019, Italy celebrated World Health Day and the Ministry of Health presented at the Cardio Race with an information to raise awareness on the importance of cardiovascular disease prevention, airway management in infants and young children and offered free electrocardiograms and ultrasound requisition for all participants.¹⁵⁸¹

On 14 October 2019, the epidemiological surveillance for the 2019-2020 flu season began through the Influnet system, with surveys and biological samples collected by a sentinel of general practitioners and pediatricians to produce weekly reports of influenza outbreaks.¹⁵⁸² The flu vaccination was offered actively and free of charge until the end of December 2019 to subjects aged 65 or over, children over the 6 months of age, all individuals suffering from disease with increased risk of flu complication, pregnant woman, individual admitted to long-term care facilities, healthcare personnel and subjects who are at high risk of exposure.¹⁵⁸³

Italy has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by strategizing to prevent avian flu outbreak, encouraging food virology research, and discussing training of healthcare providers, patient safety and patient equality. Italy has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by providing free electrocardiogram and ultrasounds assessing cardiac health and free flu vaccines to vulnerable populations to avoid an outbreak.

Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: ZiXuan (Maggie) Xiao

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

¹⁵⁷⁹ Security of care, Minister Speranza: "It is a priority to be tackled together", Ministry of Health (Rome), 17 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3890.

¹⁵⁸⁰ Security of care, Minister Speranza: "It is a priority to be tackled together", Ministry of Health (Rome), 17 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3890.

¹⁵⁸¹ World heart day 2019, the Ministry of Health at the Cardio Race, Ministry of Health (Rome), 27 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3901.

¹⁵⁸² Flu season 2019-2020, Influnet vaccination and surveillance is underway, Ministry of Health, 18 October 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3933.

¹⁵⁸³ Flu season 2019-2020, Influnet vaccination and surveillance is underway, Ministry of Health (Rome), 18 October 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3933.

On 28 August 2019, at the 7th edition of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that the Japanese government will support Kenya's Universal Health Coverage programme.¹⁵⁸⁴

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also pledged JPY12 million to support the Nigerian government's public health sector.¹⁵⁸⁵

On 1 October 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare implemented major medical, nursing care and welfare related changes in response to the consumption tax hike.¹⁵⁸⁶ The Elderly Health Bureau invested public funds to reduce insurance premiums for persons 65 years old or older who are exempt from municipal tax, with specific reduction rate prescribed by individual insurer according to regulation.¹⁵⁸⁷ Over the full year, the government will also invest JPY100 billion to expand experienced and skilled staff for improving nursing home care.¹⁵⁸⁸ For welfare recipients and persons with disabilities, the Social Affairs Bureau Protection Division reports a remuneration reform for disability welfare services focusing on improving the experience and skills of staff.¹⁵⁸⁹

On 5 November 2019, a digital healthcare company MORE Health with an integrated network of physician specialists announced its collaboration with Japan's Integrity Healthcare, a government-funded company engaged with medical infrastructure, to offer international patients the best medical resources in Japan through Co-Diagnosis, a collaborative diagnosis serviced through a cloud-based platform.¹⁵⁹⁰

On 7 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare released the schedule and venue for 21 free seminars, to be held in 14 cities nationwide between 6 December 2019 and 23 January 2020.¹⁵⁹¹ The seminars will disseminate and explain the work style reform of medical staff as they shift to a non-equity medical system under the Revised Medical Law for healthcare professionals.¹⁵⁹²

¹⁵⁸⁴ Kevin Rotich, "Japanese PM backs rollout of Kenya's universal health cover", Business Daily (Kenya). 28 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/Japanese-PM-backs-kenya-healthcare/539546-5252556-vjeadz/index.html>.

¹⁵⁸⁵ Dennis Erezi, "Japanese PM pledges \$412,740 for Nigeria's defence college, healthcare", The Guardian (Nigeria). 29 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://guardian.ng/news/japanese-pm-pledges-412740-for-nigerias-defence-college-healthcare/>.

¹⁵⁸⁶ About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html.

¹⁵⁸⁷ About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html.

¹⁵⁸⁸ About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html.

¹⁵⁸⁹ About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html.

¹⁵⁹⁰ MORE Health Announces Collaboration with Japan's Integrity Healthcare, PR News Wire (San Mateo). 5 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/more-health-announces-collaboration-with-japans-integrity-healthcare-300949505.html>.

¹⁵⁹¹ We hold "seminar about system about medical corporation" in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 7 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07679.html.

¹⁵⁹² We hold "seminar about system about medical corporation" in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 7 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07679.html.

On 18 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare held a “Skilled Medical Care” Ambassador Appointment Event to appoint Mr. Nakamura and His Excellency Demon as “good medical care” ambassadors, following a round-table conference to address physician burnout and long wait times during weekend consultations, with aims of alleviating excessive burden on healthcare providers.¹⁵⁹³

On 29 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare approved of the “BRACAnalysis” genetic test to screen for breast cancer patients for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome so as to enable earlier treatment.¹⁵⁹⁴

On 1 December 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in cooperation with the AIDS Prevention Foundation and other related non-governmental organizations held various public awareness events for “World AIDS day” across Japan to counter discrimination and prejudice against AIDS patients and take initiative to educate health centres and relevant organizations on correct knowledge of AIDS.¹⁵⁹⁵ The event outline included street campaigns, performances by artists who support the advocacy cause, and free HIV testing.¹⁵⁹⁶

Japan has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by addressing physician burnout and long wait times, improving diagnosis and treatment for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome, and providing training to medical professionals to understand reform of working style. Japan has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by providing free HIV testing and raising HIV awareness, investing in senior citizens’ care and providing more comprehensive healthcare options to international travellers.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: ZiXuan (Maggie) Xiao

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 3 September 2019, British High Commissioner to Kenya Jane Marriott presented to the President of the Republic of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta.¹⁵⁹⁷ Marriott indicated the UK government’s support of

¹⁵⁹³ “Skilled Medical Care” Ambassador Appointment Event will be held on November 18, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 14 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07884.html.

¹⁵⁹⁴ Dana Dovey “Japan Approves Genetic Testing For Breast Cancer Treatment”, Forbes 29 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danadovey/2019/11/29/japan-approves-genetic-testing-for-breast-cancer-treatment/#4129148837f4>.

¹⁵⁹⁵ We carry out spread enlightenment event for World AIDS Day, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582_00005.html.

¹⁵⁹⁶ We carry out spread enlightenment event for World AIDS Day, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. 1 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582_00005.html

¹⁵⁹⁷ New British High Commissioner to Kenya presents credentials: speech by Jane Marriott, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-the-new-british-high-commissioner>.

Kenya's Big Four objectives of affordable housing, food security, manufacturing, and universal healthcare.¹⁵⁹⁸

On 5 September 2019, Minister for Care Caroline Dinenage announced that the second phase of an adult social care recruitment campaign is underway.¹⁵⁹⁹ The campaign, titled "When you care, every day makes a difference" aims to increase interest in adult social care as a career, given the shortage of 122,000 workers.¹⁶⁰⁰ The campaign is geared towards people between ages 20 and 39 who have expressed significant interest in adult social care as a vocation through a survey administered in England.¹⁶⁰¹ The aim of the campaign is to fulfil the need of 580,000 more social care workers by 2035 to support the ageing population.¹⁶⁰²

On 8 September 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock announced EUR1 million funding to expand the cost-recovery team at the National Health Service (NHS).¹⁶⁰³ Cost-recovery experts serve to reclaim debts of overseas visitors when they receive care in the UK as solely UK residents are eligible for free healthcare.¹⁶⁰⁴ Experts will aide cost-recovery managers in easing administrative burden by helping identify patients that need to be charged, standardizing and implementing rules and exemptions across the country, and improving reporting of income and debt collection.¹⁶⁰⁵ The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) reassures their commitment to protecting the most vulnerable people in society, including refugees, victims of modern slavery, asylum seekers and children cared for by local authorities.¹⁶⁰⁶ Improved debt recollection from tourists will enable reallocation of funds to maintain delivery of high-quality front-line patient care at

¹⁵⁹⁸ New British High Commissioner to Kenya presents credentials: speech by Jane Marriott, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-the-new-british-high-commissioner>.

¹⁵⁹⁹ Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

¹⁶⁰⁰ Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

¹⁶⁰¹ Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

¹⁶⁰² Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

¹⁶⁰³ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

¹⁶⁰⁴ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

¹⁶⁰⁵ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

¹⁶⁰⁶ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

NHS.¹⁶⁰⁷ DHSC also notes that emergent care will be provided to tourists and other non-residents without full payment with debt being recollected after treatment.¹⁶⁰⁸

On 9 September 2019, the government announced EUR130 million of funding in healthcare innovations for cancer and debilitating illnesses, such as dementia and Parkinson's.¹⁶⁰⁹ EUR50 million will be allocated to NHS diagnostic services and artificial intelligence technology at Centres of Excellence.¹⁶¹⁰ EUR7.5 million will be used for adult social care, while EUR14 million will be used for bioscience initiatives such as developing treatments for diseases and developing vaccines.¹⁶¹¹ EUR69.5 million investment through UK Research and Innovation will be directed towards four British projects – 1. Nucleic Acid Therapy Accelerator to develop genetic therapies for various diseases; 2. The Advanced Pain Discovery Platform to better understand pain; 3. UK Centre of Evidence Implantation in Adult Social Care to implement innovations that enable more people to receive care at home; and 4. Tackling Multimorbidity to propel drug development and enable earlier diagnosis and lesser progression.¹⁶¹²

On 10 September 2019, Public Health England (PHE) published a five-year infectious diseases strategy to “prevent, detect, respond to and reduce the impact of infectious diseases.”¹⁶¹³ PHE will be working alongside the NHS and local authorities to integrate diagnostic mechanisms and surveillance systems that enable infection prevention and control, be a global leader in tackling antimicrobial resistance by reducing use of antibiotic treatments, and strengthen England's and global health protection systems.¹⁶¹⁴

¹⁶⁰⁷ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

¹⁶⁰⁸ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

¹⁶⁰⁹ Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

¹⁶¹⁰ Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

¹⁶¹¹ Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

¹⁶¹² Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

¹⁶¹³ Public Health England launches new infectious disease strategy, Public Health England (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-launches-new-infectious-disease-strategy>.

¹⁶¹⁴ Public Health England launches new infectious disease strategy, Public Health England (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-launches-new-infectious-disease-strategy>.

On 10 September 2019, the Department of Health in Northern Ireland published the “Protect Life 2” suicide prevention strategy.¹⁶¹⁵ Northern Ireland has the highest suicide rates when compared to other UK nations.¹⁶¹⁶ The strategy received an additional EUR1.35 million in funding through the transformation programme and will require additional funding to be fully implemented.¹⁶¹⁷

On 11 September 2019, the DHSC announced they were accepting proposals to make the pensions of doctors and nurses more flexible.¹⁶¹⁸ The government indicated that health care professionals do not take on extra shifts due to facets of the NHS Pension Scheme and pension tax rules as they currently stand.¹⁶¹⁹ Changes in the pension scheme will allow healthcare professionals more flexibility to choose individual pension plans, enabling them to maximize clinical work without high taxes.¹⁶²⁰

On 11 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new immigration route that would permit international students to remain in the UK for two years after graduation while looking for a job.¹⁶²¹ The intention is to encourage international talent, including individuals the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields (STEM), to remain in the UK and potentially become more involved in breakthroughs in STEM fields, particularly genomics.¹⁶²² One EUR200 million project in which graduates can become involved is the world’s largest whole genome sequencing project that aims to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of various diseases.¹⁶²³ Another project by Genomics England in collaboration with NHS has enabled 25 per cent patients with rare diseases to receive a diagnosis for the first time.¹⁶²⁴

On 12 September 2019, eight new female genital mutilation (FGM) support clinics were opened in communities in England where there is the greatest need with the aim of reaching women before

¹⁶¹⁵ Action plan to fight suicide epidemic that claims a life in Northern Ireland every day, Belfast Telegraph (Belfast) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/action-plan-to-fight-suicide-epidemic-that-claims-a-life-in-northern-ireland-every-day-38481802.html>.

¹⁶¹⁶ Suicides: Plan revealed to reduce number of deaths, BBC News (London) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-49639583>.

¹⁶¹⁷ Suicides: Plan revealed to reduce number of deaths, BBC News (London) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-49639583>.

¹⁶¹⁸ Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

¹⁶¹⁹ Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

¹⁶²⁰ Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

¹⁶²¹ World’s largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

¹⁶²² World’s largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

¹⁶²³ World’s largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

¹⁶²⁴ World’s largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

they reach to NHS with life-threatening FGM complications.¹⁶²⁵ Clinic sites include Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, and five London boroughs.¹⁶²⁶ The clinics aim to address the physical and psychological impact of female genital mutilation through treatment, support, and education on prevention.¹⁶²⁷ Funding comes from the EUR33.9 billion the UK government invested in the NHS.¹⁶²⁸

On 23 September 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma delivered a speech in New York at the United Nations General Assembly political declaration on universal health coverage.¹⁶²⁹,¹⁶³⁰ Sharma announced funding of EUR600 million over 2020-2025 towards Reproductive Health Supplies programme aimed at providing access to family planning resources to more than 20 million women and girls, preventing unplanned pregnancies and unsafe abortions and reducing pregnancy and childbirth complications.¹⁶³¹ Sharma stated that “We cannot achieve Universal Health Coverage without Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.”¹⁶³²

On 23 September 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock confirmed that the UK government will fund healthcare for 180,000 UK nationals in the European Union after Brexit in a no-deal scenario.¹⁶³³ Healthcare costs will be covered for six months, or up to one year for

¹⁶²⁵ We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

¹⁶²⁶ We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

¹⁶²⁷ We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

¹⁶²⁸ We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

¹⁶²⁹ Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030 Hinges on ‘Bold National Leadership, Secretary-General Tells General Assembly, as World Leaders Commit to Declaration, United Nations (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12181.doc.htm>.

¹⁶³⁰ Healthcare for everyone must prioritise women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, says UK at UN General Assembly, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/healthcare-for-everyone-must-prioritise-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-says-uk-at-un-general-assembly>.

¹⁶³¹ Healthcare for everyone must prioritise women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, says UK at UN General Assembly, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/healthcare-for-everyone-must-prioritise-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-says-uk-at-un-general-assembly>.

¹⁶³² Alok Sharma speech to UN General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/alok-sharma-speech-to-un-general-assembly-on-universal-health-coverage>.

¹⁶³³ Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

individuals who are currently undergoing treatment.¹⁶³⁴ The UK government will also cover costs while individuals turn to local healthcare as to avoid gaps in coverage.¹⁶³⁵

On 24 September 2019, at the 74th United Nations General Assembly, Chief Medical Officer for England Professor Dame Sally Davies announced funding to combat antimicrobial resistance and noted that universal healthcare coverage cannot be achieved without tackling antimicrobial resistance.¹⁶³⁶ EUR6.2 million will be used to strengthen surveillance systems in Africa and Asia that can inform policy decisions and EUR12 million will be used for research collaborations between the UK and low and middle income countries.¹⁶³⁷ Funding will be provided by the Fleming Fund and the National Institute of Health Research Global Health Research programme.¹⁶³⁸

On 27 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged EUR200 million to the NHS to improve cancer screening equipment, including magnetic resonance imaging, computerized tomography scanners, and breast screening equipment, which can enable earlier diagnoses.¹⁶³⁹ The investment was made in efforts to increase efficiency and patient safety.¹⁶⁴⁰ On 20 October 2019, the government announced the 78 NHS trusts that will receive funding.¹⁶⁴¹

On 30 September 2019, the DHSC published the Health Infrastructure Plan.¹⁶⁴² The plan provides capital to build new hospitals, invest in technology, modernize facilities, and ensure the safety of estates.¹⁶⁴³ Specifically, EUR2.8 billion was allocated to build six new hospitals by 2025 and 21 other

¹⁶³⁴ Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

¹⁶³⁵ Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

¹⁶³⁶ IVI-led Consortium Awarded Fleming Fund Regional Grant to Improve Data Sharing in Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, International Vaccine Institute (Seoul) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.ivi.int/ivi-consortium-awarded-fleming-fund-regional-grant/>.

¹⁶³⁷ UK to invest in new research against evolving global health threats, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-invest-in-new-research-against-evolving-global-health-threats>.

¹⁶³⁸ UK to invest in new research against evolving global health threats, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-invest-in-new-research-against-evolving-global-health-threats>.

¹⁶³⁹ Prime Minister pledges funding for cancer screening overhaul, Prime Minister's Office (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-funding-for-cancer-screening-overhaul>.

¹⁶⁴⁰ Prime Minister pledges funding for cancer screening overhaul, Prime Minister's Office (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-funding-for-cancer-screening-overhaul>.

¹⁶⁴¹ 78 NHS trusts to receive new cancer screening machines, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/78-nhs-trusts-to-receive-new-cancer-screening-machines>.

¹⁶⁴² New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

¹⁶⁴³ New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

hospitals were provided with seed funding.¹⁶⁴⁴ Overall, 40 schemes for new hospitals fall under the Health Infrastructure Plan.¹⁶⁴⁵

On 3 October 2019, the DHSC placed hormone replacement therapy products, which currently face shortage, on the list of medicines that face restrictions and cannot be parallel exported to tackle supply shortages.¹⁶⁴⁶ Shortage protocols for the antidepressant fluoxetine were also introduced for the antidepressant fluoxetine.¹⁶⁴⁷ Measures were put in place to address shortages.¹⁶⁴⁸

On 4 October 2019, PHE announced that 30 million people will receive the flu vaccine for free.¹⁶⁴⁹ For the first time, all students in primary schools are eligible to receive the free vaccine.¹⁶⁵⁰

On 9 October 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock delivered a speech in Manchester at the NHS Providers Annual Conference.¹⁶⁵¹ He reiterated features of the Long Term Plan Bill, Health Infrastructure Plan, and the health technology body NHSX.¹⁶⁵² He also discussed the upcoming release of the People Plan, which addresses the need for more health care workers.¹⁶⁵³

On 10 October 2019, Department for International Development Ghana Director Philip Smith delivered a speech indicating UK government's support for mental health care initiatives in Ghana.¹⁶⁵⁴ Specifically, Smith discussed improving access to services, and issuing a UK Aid

¹⁶⁴⁴ New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

¹⁶⁴⁵ New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

¹⁶⁴⁶ New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

¹⁶⁴⁷ New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

¹⁶⁴⁸ New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

¹⁶⁴⁹ Biggest NHS flu campaign under way, BBC News (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-49895681>; Flu vaccination: The main things to know about the 2019 programme, Public Health England (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/04/flu-vaccination-the-main-things-to-know-about-the-2019-programme/>.

¹⁶⁵⁰ Flu vaccination: The main things to know about the 2019 programme, Public Health England (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/04/flu-vaccination-the-main-things-to-know-about-the-2019-programme/>.

¹⁶⁵¹ How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

¹⁶⁵² How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

¹⁶⁵³ How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

¹⁶⁵⁴ DFID Ghana Director's Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

programme aimed at reducing stigma among Ghanaian youth.¹⁶⁵⁵ Mental healthcare delivery is indicated as an important component of universal health coverage.¹⁶⁵⁶

On 19 October 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed speculation regarding trade negotiations over the NHS.¹⁶⁵⁷ In the House of Commons, Johnson stated “And our first decision, on which I believe there will be unanimity is that in any future trade negotiations with any country our NHS will not be on the table.”¹⁶⁵⁸

On 19 October 2019, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care Jo Churchill announced the roll-out of electronic prescription services across England in November 2019.¹⁶⁵⁹ The electronic prescription service is intended to increase efficiency in the NHS for patients and staff.¹⁶⁶⁰

On 22 October 2019, the UK government awarded a EUR1.9 million Rough Sleeping Grant to projects that aim to improve access to healthcare for individuals who sleep rough, considering that people experiencing rough sleeping have poorer health than the general population.¹⁶⁶¹ The six projects involved are located in Lambeth, Newcastle, West Sussex, Portsmouth, and Leeds.¹⁶⁶² The Rough Sleeping Grant aligns with the Rough Sleeping Strategy published by the UK in August 2018.¹⁶⁶³

On 22 October 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock approved a EUR184 million capital loan fund for urgent hospital upgrades.¹⁶⁶⁴ 13 trusts will receive funding for upgrades to areas such as equipment, infrastructure, and general safety.¹⁶⁶⁵

¹⁶⁵⁵ DFID Ghana Director’s Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

¹⁶⁵⁶ DFID Ghana Director’s Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

¹⁶⁵⁷ PM statement in the House of Commons: 19 October 2019, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-in-the-house-of-commons-19-october-2019>.

¹⁶⁵⁸ PM statement in the House of Commons: 19 October 2019, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-in-the-house-of-commons-19-october-2019>.

¹⁶⁵⁹ National roll-out of electronic prescription service, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-roll-out-of-electronic-prescription-service>.

¹⁶⁶⁰ National roll-out of electronic prescription service, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-roll-out-of-electronic-prescription-service>.

¹⁶⁶¹ Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

¹⁶⁶² Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

¹⁶⁶³ Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

¹⁶⁶⁴ £184 million loan funding for urgent hospital upgrades, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/184-million-loan-funding-for-urgent-hospital-upgrades>.

On 22 October 2019, the Women and Equalities Committee appointed by the House of Commons and chaired by Member of Parliament Maria Miller released a report indicating that LGBT health needs are not being adequately met as LGBT individuals are treated as straight and cisgender when interacting with the healthcare system.¹⁶⁶⁶ The report recommends mandated monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identity within the next 12 months.¹⁶⁶⁷ The report also suggests that the NHS Long Term Care Plan should highlight explicit inequalities that the NHS must address.¹⁶⁶⁸

On 23 October 2019, the Health and Social Care Committee released on report on drugs policy that advocates for a harm reduction approach that would benefit drug users and reduce harm and cost to surrounding communities.¹⁶⁶⁹ Among their recommendations include shifting responsibility for drug policy from the Home Office to the DHSC and decriminalize drug possession for personal use so as to treat possession for personal use as a civil matter rather than a criminal one.¹⁶⁷⁰ Decriminalization will enable the criminal justice department to reduce costs, funds of which can be reallocated to prevention and treatment programs that save lives of users and provide better protection for communities.¹⁶⁷¹ On 4 November 2019, the Scottish Affairs Committee published a report on 'Problem drug use in Scotland' with conclusions similar to that of the Health and Social Care committee.¹⁶⁷²

On 24 October 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock delivered a speech at the Royal College of General Practitioners annual conference and stated his priorities as people, structures, and technology.¹⁶⁷³ Hancock reiterated the UK government's commitments to recruit 20,000 primary care clinical staff and provide an extra EUR4.5 billion for primary and community

¹⁶⁶⁵ £184 million loan funding for urgent hospital upgrades, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/184-million-loan-funding-for-urgent-hospital-upgrades>.

¹⁶⁶⁶ "Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes" for LGBT people "glare out wherever you look", Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

¹⁶⁶⁷ "Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes" for LGBT people "glare out wherever you look", Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

¹⁶⁶⁸ "Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes" for LGBT people "glare out wherever you look", Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

¹⁶⁶⁹ Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

¹⁶⁷⁰ Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

¹⁶⁷¹ Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

¹⁶⁷² Health and Social Care Committee Chair comment on Scottish Affairs Committee report on drugs policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-scottish-affairs-committee-report-chairs-comments-2019/>.

¹⁶⁷³ General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

care each year by 2023-2024.¹⁶⁷⁴ Hancock also referenced the previous launch of the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice in April 2019 that limits personal liabilities for professionals, and plans to rely on healthcare technology such as digitized paper records and electronic prescribing in the future.¹⁶⁷⁵

On 28 October 2019, the DHSC announced that a EUR1,082,000 fund will be used for personalized bereavement support at 10 NHS areas in England.¹⁶⁷⁶ Individuals who have lost a family member or friend can receive counselling support and mental health services.¹⁶⁷⁷

On 28 October 2019, the UK government announced a EUR3.5 million investment to treat gonorrhoea globally.¹⁶⁷⁸ Gonorrhoea particularly impacts women and vulnerable groups.¹⁶⁷⁹ The government is working in partnership with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Innovation Fund and the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership.¹⁶⁸⁰

On 31 October 2019, the UK parliament laid legislation to provide personal health budgets to 10,000 individuals eligible for a wheelchair or requiring mental health support under section 117 of the Mental Health Act.¹⁶⁸¹ On 2 December 2019, the change in law will come into effect.¹⁶⁸² Personal health budgets are used in efforts to personalize care and provide patients with greater control over their health.¹⁶⁸³

On 1 November 2019, the DHSC announced that EUR26 million in funding will be allocated to 25 trusts to support implementation of digital prescription technology.¹⁶⁸⁴ The upgrade is in efforts to

¹⁶⁷⁴ General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

¹⁶⁷⁵ General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

¹⁶⁷⁶ Suicide bereavement support to be made available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/suicide-bereavement-support-to-be-made-available-across-england>.

¹⁶⁷⁷ Suicide bereavement support to be made available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/suicide-bereavement-support-to-be-made-available-across-england>.

¹⁶⁷⁸ Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

¹⁶⁷⁹ Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

¹⁶⁸⁰ Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

¹⁶⁸¹ 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

¹⁶⁸² 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

¹⁶⁸³ 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

¹⁶⁸⁴ £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

reduce medication errors, increase the speed of access, and ensure that information is stored in a single electronic record.¹⁶⁸⁵ EUR26 million is the second installment of EUR78 million for the implementation of electronic prescribing systems over the next three years.¹⁶⁸⁶

On 5 November 2019, the DHSC and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency added the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine to the list of medications that cannot be parallel exported from the UK.¹⁶⁸⁷ The restriction was added in efforts to stop medication shortages for individuals that do not receive coverage from the national immunisation programme and must purchase the vaccine privately, such as overseas workers.¹⁶⁸⁸

On 5 November 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock announced that 2,250 inpatients with learning disabilities and autism that are situated in a mental health hospital will have their cases reviewed.¹⁶⁸⁹ This decision was made to reduce the number of patients in restrictive settings in accordance with recommendations by the Care Quality Commission.¹⁶⁹⁰ Additional measures include increasing transparency regarding inpatients with mental health conditions and providing mandatory training to NHS and social care workers.¹⁶⁹¹ EUR1.4 million government funds will be used to provide the necessary training.¹⁶⁹²

On 9 November 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock apologized to Bethany, a young girl with autism that was locked up for nearly three years based on terms set forth in the Mental Health Act.¹⁶⁹³ Hancock indicated that the situation is under a serious case review and recommendations will be made going forward.¹⁶⁹⁴

¹⁶⁸⁵ £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

¹⁶⁸⁶ £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

¹⁶⁸⁷ Medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-that-cannot-be-parallel-exported-from-the-uk#history>.

¹⁶⁸⁸ New measures to secure MMR vaccine for private patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-secure-mmr-vaccine-for-private-patients>.

¹⁶⁸⁹ All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

¹⁶⁹⁰ All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

¹⁶⁹¹ All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

¹⁶⁹² All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

¹⁶⁹³ Bethany: Health secretary sorry over care for locked-up autistic girl, Sky News (London) 9 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://news.sky.com/story/autistic-bethany-will-be-moved-before-christmas-says-health-secretary-matt-hancock-11857982>; 'My autistic daughter was held in a cell for two years', BBC News (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/education-50252079>.

¹⁶⁹⁴ Bethany: Health secretary sorry over care for locked-up autistic girl, Sky News (London) 9 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://news.sky.com/story/autistic-bethany-will-be-moved-before-christmas-says-health-secretary-matt-hancock-11857982>.

On 16 December 2019, the Scottish government published “An Integrated Health and Social Workforce Plan for Scotland,” in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.¹⁶⁹⁵ The plan presents ideas to planners and employers in local authorities, NHS, third and independent sector to meet health and social care needs by planning resources needed to build sustainable health systems.¹⁶⁹⁶

On 18 December 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock delivered a speech at Policy Exchange indicating his prioritization of prevention, people, technology, and infrastructure.¹⁶⁹⁷ Hancock reiterated commitments made leading up to the UK general election on 12 December 2019.¹⁶⁹⁸ Commitments included building 40 new hospitals in the next decade, establishing 50 million more general practitioner appointments, and recruiting more healthcare professionals.¹⁶⁹⁹ Recruitment targets include 50,000 nurses, 6,000 general practitioners, and 6,000 primary care professionals.¹⁷⁰⁰ Hancock also announced EUR2 billion to support trainee nurses.¹⁷⁰¹ Students will receive at least EUR5,000 extra per year and up to EUR3,000 under certain conditions.¹⁷⁰²

On 19 December 2019, newly re-elected Prime Minister Boris Johnson delivered the Queen’s Speech.¹⁷⁰³ Johnson promised to dedicate EUR34 billion in the new NHS Funding Bill.¹⁷⁰⁴

The United Kingdom has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through investments in personnel, infrastructure, technology, research, as well as introducing unique strategies, programs, and funding for affected communities. The United Kingdom has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare

¹⁶⁹⁵ Health and social care: integrated workforce plan, Health Workforce, Leadership and Service Transformation Directorate (Edinburgh) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-health-social-care-integrated-workforce-plan/>.

¹⁶⁹⁶ Health and social care: integrated workforce plan, Health Workforce, Leadership and Service Transformation Directorate (Edinburgh) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-health-social-care-integrated-workforce-plan/>.

¹⁶⁹⁷ What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

¹⁶⁹⁸ What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

¹⁶⁹⁹ What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

¹⁷⁰⁰ What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

¹⁷⁰¹ Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year>.

¹⁷⁰² Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year>.

¹⁷⁰³ NHS PRIORITY Queen’s Speech: Boris Johnson to enshrine in law his £34billion NHS spending pledge, The Sun (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10586993/queens-speech-boris-johnson-nhs-pledge-law/>.

¹⁷⁰⁴ NHS PRIORITY Queen’s Speech: Boris Johnson to enshrine in law his £34billion NHS spending pledge, The Sun (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10586993/queens-speech-boris-johnson-nhs-pledge-law/>.

coverage through providing global aid, providing immediate care to overseas visitors in urgent condition, ensuring there is no gap in coverage for UK nationals in the European Union, providing flu vaccinations for all primary school children, ensuring that individuals not covered by the NHS can access medications experiencing a shortage, and introducing additional funding to the National Health Service.

Thus, United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jessica Saini

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 3 September 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) will award USD170 million to Emergent BioSolutions of Gaithersburg, Maryland to purchase the smallpox vaccine for people at high risk for smallpox infection over the next decade.¹⁷⁰⁵ This will build and replenish the Strategic National Stockpile in order to enhance biodefense preparedness.¹⁷⁰⁶ ASPR remains committed to the commitment of developing two additional vaccines and treatments for smallpox; Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, a component of ASPR, is still continuing to collaborate with federal and private partners to develop additional smallpox vaccines that can be administered to people at a high risk of infection or reaction to traditional vaccines and to develop antiviral drugs.¹⁷⁰⁷

On 3 September 2019, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS issued guidance on how to ensure equal access to services for all segments of the community during emergency circumstances, particularly Hurricane Dorian.¹⁷⁰⁸ OCR has also declared a public health emergency and waived certain provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act within disaster areas for 72 hours so that patient information can be shared with family members and friends who may assist in their care and between covered entities for treatment purposes, public health activities and to prevent or lessen serious threat to health and safety.¹⁷⁰⁹

¹⁷⁰⁵ HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

¹⁷⁰⁶ HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

¹⁷⁰⁷ HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

¹⁷⁰⁸ OCR Issues Guidance to Help Ensure Equal Access to Emergency Services and the Appropriate Sharing of Medical Information during Hurricane Dorian (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/ocr-issues-guidance-to-help-ensure-equal-access-during-hurricane-dorian.html>

¹⁷⁰⁹ OCR Issues Guidance to Help Ensure Equal Access to Emergency Services and the Appropriate Sharing of Medical Information during Hurricane Dorian (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/ocr-issues-guidance-to-help-ensure-equal-access-during-hurricane-dorian.html>.

On 4 September 2019, HHS announced USD1.8 billion in funding would be going towards states so that they are able to expand access to treatment for the opioid crisis and support gathering of real-time overdose data.¹⁷¹⁰

On 10 September 2019, the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology provided funding for two Leading Edge Acceleration Projects in Health Information Technology to improve health care for all Americans. Projects aim to develop health information technology infrastructure to focus on consent management, population health research, enhancement of engagement with health research and care amongst underrepresented populations, appropriate data sharing between patients, researchers and clinicians and patient security and privacy.¹⁷¹¹

On 10 September 2019, HHS through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded almost USD9 million to launch Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies pilot program. This program aims to improve access to and continuity of maternal obstetric care in rural communities specifically Missouri, New Mexico and Texas.¹⁷¹² The unique aspect of this program is that network requirements provide a detailed outline of specific stakeholder involvement to focus on developing sustainable strategies at a regional level by focusing on financial stability in care, introducing telehealth and a network-based approach to ensure continuum of care.¹⁷¹³

On 11 September 2019, HHS through the HRSA awarded USD50 million for funding 77 health centres to support new organizations and existing health centres in improving access to quality healthcare in both rural and urban communities for vulnerable populations where financial, geographical or cultural barriers to affordable health care exist.¹⁷¹⁴

On 12 September 2019, HHS allocated USD351 million to states, territories and non-profit organizations through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting Program, that provides voluntary, evidence-based home visiting to pregnant women and parents with young children up to kindergarten to enable many families, especially families considered at-risk, raise healthy children.¹⁷¹⁵ An additional USD18,7 million funding towards State Maternal Health Innovation through nine cooperative agreements will aid states to improve maternal health outcomes, particularly reduce maternal mortality.¹⁷¹⁶ USD2.6 million will be allocated to Supporting Maternal Health Innovation to aid HRSA maternal health grantees and stakeholders in developing innovative and evidence-based

¹⁷¹⁰ Trump Administration Announces \$1.8 Billion in Funding to States to Continue Combating Opioid Crisis (Washington) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/04/trump-administration-announces-1-8-billion-funding-states-combating-opioid.html>.

¹⁷¹¹ HHS Announces Health IT Awardees Focused on Innovative Interoperability Solutions (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-announces-health-it-awardees-innovative-interoperability-solutions.html>.

¹⁷¹² HHS Awards \$9 Million to Develop New Models to Improve Obstetrics Care in Rural Communities (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-awards-9-million-new-models-obstetrics-care-rural-communities.html>.

¹⁷¹³ HHS Awards \$9 Million to Develop New Models to Improve Obstetrics Care in Rural Communities (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-awards-9-million-new-models-obstetrics-care-rural-communities.html>.

¹⁷¹⁴ HHS Awards More than \$50 Million to Establish New Health Center Sites (Washington) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/11/hhs-awards-more-than-50-million-establish-new-health-center-sites.html>.

¹⁷¹⁵ HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>

¹⁷¹⁶ HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>.

strategies to reduce maternal mortality.¹⁷¹⁷ USD1.8 million will be allocated to Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) to build upon AIM's foundational work to expand reach by addressing preventable maternal mortality outside of hospital and birthing facility settings.¹⁷¹⁸

On 18 September 2019, HHS through the HRSA awarded USD85 million to 298 health centres for affordable and accessible oral health services to be used towards the support of new infrastructure which includes equipment purchases, mobile units for inaccessible communities and training of staff to integrate oral health within overall systemic health services.¹⁷¹⁹

On 24 September 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that on average premiums would decline 23 per cent from 2018 for Medicare Advantage while benefits and enrollment are expected to increase.¹⁷²⁰ Secretary Alex Azar of HHS indicated that this would mean "lower costs, more options and benefits tailored to patients' needs."¹⁷²¹

On 30 September 2019, HHS through the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) allocated USD33.6 million to 50 current Title X grantees for the supplementation of family services through prioritizing unserved and underserved areas and low-income individuals.¹⁷²² Grantees that did not comply with statutory and regulatory requirements that did not allow federal funding to be used towards abortion services as a method of family planning relinquished funds.¹⁷²³ OPA aided in mitigating interruption of services due to voluntary relinquishment of funds.¹⁷²⁴

On 2 October 2019, HHS through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded USD13.5 million for community involvement for the federal initiative "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for Americans," which aims to reduce new HIV infections through investing in locally tailored plans for each community and increasing local health department capacity.¹⁷²⁵

¹⁷¹⁷ HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>.

¹⁷¹⁸ HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>

¹⁷¹⁹ HHS Awards over \$85 Million to Help Health Centers Expand Access to Oral Health Care (Washington) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/18/hhs-awards-over-85-million-help-health-centers-expand-access-oral-healthcare.html>.

¹⁷²⁰ HHS Secretary Azar Statement on 2020 Medicare Advantage Rate Decrease (Washington) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/24/secretary-azar-statement-2020-medicare-advantage-rate-decrease.html>.

¹⁷²¹ HHS Secretary Azar Statement on 2020 Medicare Advantage Rate Decrease (Washington) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/24/secretary-azar-statement-2020-medicare-advantage-rate-decrease.html>.

¹⁷²² HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

¹⁷²³ HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

¹⁷²⁴ HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

¹⁷²⁵ HHS Awards \$13.5 Million to Accelerate State and Local Planning Efforts for Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (Washington) 2 October 2019. Date Access: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/02/hhs-awards-13.5-million-dollars-to-accelerate-state-and-local-planning-efforts.html>.

On 10 October 2019, HHS published “Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics” to provide clinicians with a guide when contemplating or initiating a change in opioid dosage.¹⁷²⁶ HHS recommends clinicians to not suddenly discontinue or rapidly decrease dosage due to significant risks of opioid withdrawal barring life-threatening circumstances.¹⁷²⁷ The guide includes issues to consider when changing dosage that include need to treat symptoms of withdrawal and provide behavioural support.¹⁷²⁸

On 16 October 2019, HHS Secretary Alex Azar stated that the all-time high approval of generic drugs by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) contributed to lower drug prices, promoting health and improved access to prescription to drugs.¹⁷²⁹

On 22 October 2019, HHS through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality announced USD16 million for initiatives to enable over 700 primary care practices to address patients’ unhealthy alcohol use.¹⁷³⁰

On 23 October 2019, HHS through the HRSA announced USD319 million for awards to clinicians and students through the National Health Service Corps, to provide quality care to Americans in rural, urban and tribal communities.¹⁷³¹ HHS Secretary Alex Azar said that there is a particular focus on improving healthcare in rural communities through building “a strong, sustainable rural healthcare workforce.”¹⁷³²

On 25 October 2019, HHS through the HRSA announced USD2.27 billion for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grants to support HIV primary medical care, medication, and essential support services to Americans to increase access to treatment and medical advances, especially for low income people in hard-to-reach areas.¹⁷³³

¹⁷²⁶ HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

¹⁷²⁷ HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

¹⁷²⁸ HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

¹⁷²⁹ Secretary Azar Statement on FDA’s 2019 Generic Drug Approval Record (Washington) 16 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/16/secretary-azar-statement-on-fda-2019-generic-drug-approval-record.html>.

¹⁷³⁰ HHS Awards \$16 Million to Help Primary Care Practices Address Patients’ Unhealthy Alcohol Use (Washington) 22 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/22/hhs-awards-16-million-help-primary-care-practices-address-unhealthy-alcohol-use.html>.

¹⁷³¹ HHS Awards \$319 Million to Support Health Workforce Providers Caring for the Underserved (Washington) 23 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/23/hhs-awards-319-million-support-health-workforce-providers-caring-underserved.html>.

¹⁷³² HHS Awards \$319 Million to Support Health Workforce Providers Caring for the Underserved (Washington) 23 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/23/hhs-awards-319-million-support-health-workforce-providers-caring-underserved.html>.

¹⁷³³ HHS Awards \$2.27 Billion in Grants to Help Americans Access HIV/AIDS Care, Support Services and Medication (Washington) 25 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/25/hhs-awards-2-billion-grants-help-americans-access-hiv-care-services-medications.html>.

On 30 October 2019, HHS and Mental Health Services Administration launched “FindTreatment.gov” to connect Americans with substance abuse treatment locations to improve access to treatment, prevention and recovery.¹⁷³⁴

On 1 November 2019, the CMS finalized Medicare policies to increase choice through eliminating payment differences between services, encouraging medical innovation and increasing access of them, and empowering senior patients.¹⁷³⁵

On 4 November 2019, HHS, the American Society of Nephrology, and National Kidney Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding to create a campaign on kidney disease to increase education, awareness and prevention of chronic kidney disease to improve health.¹⁷³⁶

On 14 November 2019, th HHS will provide advanced development support from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to test diagnostic technology that distinguishes between viral and bacterial infection through reading gene expressions under a USD6 million contract with Inflammatrix Inc.¹⁷³⁷ Funding will also enable Inflammatrix Inc. to apply for FDA clearance.¹⁷³⁸ Development of this rapid diagnostic tool will allow clinicians to make a decision on whether antibiotics are required to treat the infection based on identification of the infection as bacterial.¹⁷³⁹ Tests will also enable clinicians to determine the risk of death from organ failure and identify susceptibility to antibiotics, ultimately promoting antimicrobial stewardship and tackling antimicrobial resistance.¹⁷⁴⁰

On 15 November 2019, th HHS announced that CMS issued two rules to increase healthcare price transparency to the public, empowering patients and increasing competition between health providers and health coverage to decrease healthcare costs for Americans.¹⁷⁴¹ The Transparency in

¹⁷³⁴ HHS Secretary Azar, SAMHSA Assistant Secretary McCance-Katz Statements on Launch of FindTreatment.Gov (Washington) 30 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/30/statements-on-launch-of-findtreatment-gov.html>.

¹⁷³⁵ CY 2020 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Final Rule (CMS-1717-FC) (Washington) 1 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/cy-2020-medicare-hospital-outpatient-prospective-payment-system-and-ambulatory-surgical-center-0>.

¹⁷³⁶ HHS Secretary Azar Statment on Step Forward in President Trump’s Kidney Health Initiative (Washington) 4 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/04/hhs-secretary-azar-statement-step-forward-president-trump-s-kidney-health-initiative.html>.

¹⁷³⁷ HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

¹⁷³⁸ HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

¹⁷³⁹ HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁰ HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

¹⁷⁴¹ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

Coverage Rule will require health plans to provide consumers access to cost-sharing information such as an estimation of liability and disclose rates for in-network providers and amounts paid to out-of-network providers.¹⁷⁴² The other rule will require hospitals to make all hospital standard charges and the minimum and maximum amounts chargeable for common shoppable services, such as X-rays, publicly accessible.¹⁷⁴³ CMS will also be provided with enforcement tools such as monitoring, auditing and corrective action plans and the ability to impose a civil fine of USD300.¹⁷⁴⁴ The rules will be finalized by 2021.¹⁷⁴⁵

On 3 December 2019, HHS launched “Ready, Set, PrEP,” a national program that makes medications for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), taken daily to prevent HIV, available at no cost to people without prescription drug insurance coverage.¹⁷⁴⁶ This program is a component of ‘Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America’ that aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections by 90% in the next ten years.¹⁷⁴⁷

On 5 December 2019, the Indian Health Services (IHS) and the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Native American Child Health released clinical recommendations for IHS, tribal, and urban Indian organizations for neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome and standards of care for screening, diagnosing, and treatment at health care facilities.¹⁷⁴⁸ These standards will improve the quality of care for mothers and their infants that are impacted by the opioid crisis.¹⁷⁴⁹

On 17 December 2019, HHS through CMS proposed removing financial disincentives to living organ donors through expanding reimbursable expenses for living donors including lost wages, as

¹⁷⁴² Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

¹⁷⁴³ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁴ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁵ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁶ Ready, Set, PrEP Expands Access to Medication to Prevent HIV, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/03/ready-set-prep-expands-access-to-medication-to-prevent-hiv.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁷ Ready, Set, PrEP Expands Access to Medication to Prevent HIV, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/03/ready-set-prep-expands-access-to-medication-to-prevent-hiv.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁸ IHS and AAP Release Clinical Recommendations to Improve Care of American Indian, Alaska Native Women and Infants Impacted by Prenatal Opioid Exposure (Washington) 5 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/05/ihs-and-aap-release-clinical-recommendations-to-improve-care-of-american-indian-alaska-native-women-and-infants-impacted-by-prenatal-opioid-exposure.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁹ IHS and AAP Release Clinical Recommendations to Improve Care of American Indian, Alaska Native Women and Infants Impacted by Prenatal Opioid Exposure (Washington) 5 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/05/ihs-and-aap-release-clinical-recommendations-to-improve-care-of-american-indian-alaska-native-women-and-infants-impacted-by-prenatal-opioid-exposure.html>.

well as child or elder care so that recipients can receive better quality organs.¹⁷⁵⁰ This measure was taken in response to the shortage in available kidney donors considering the national waiting list consists of 96,000 people.¹⁷⁵¹ Proposed changes will be in effect starting 2022.¹⁷⁵²

On 18 December 2019, HHS, the FDA, and President Trump proposed allowing certain prescription drugs to be imported from Canada.¹⁷⁵³ This would allow for lower U.S. drug prices and improve access to medication for Americans.¹⁷⁵⁴

The United States has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through improving transparency of hospital costs, proposing programs to combat health crises such as HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, opioid overuse and antimicrobial resistance. The United States has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage through providing free or lower cost medication, investing in rural healthcare, and reducing Medicaid premiums.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1

Analyst: Sophia DiNicolò

European Union: +1

European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 12 September 2019, the European Commission partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to host a Global Vaccination Summit, in order to spread awareness about the efficacy of vaccines in fighting against preventable diseases.¹⁷⁵⁵ They specifically targeted vaccine misinformation, and the inequity in vaccine coverage rates, as threats to universal health coverage.¹⁷⁵⁶

On 23 September 2019, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis released a statement emphasizing the necessity of increasing efforts towards Universal

¹⁷⁵⁰ Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

¹⁷⁵¹ Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

¹⁷⁵² Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

¹⁷⁵³ Trump Administration Takes Historic Steps to Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices (Washington) 18 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/18/trump-administration-takes-historic-steps-to-lower-us-prescription-drug-prices.html>.

¹⁷⁵⁴ Trump Administration Takes Historic Steps to Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices (Washington) 18 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/18/trump-administration-takes-historic-steps-to-lower-us-prescription-drug-prices.html>.

¹⁷⁵⁵ Global Vaccination Summit, World Health Organization (Brussels) 12 September 2019. Access date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/09/12/default-calendar/global-vaccination-summit>.

¹⁷⁵⁶ Global Vaccination Summit, World Health Organization (Brussels) 12 September 2019. Access date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/09/12/default-calendar/global-vaccination-summit>.

Health Coverage, if the European Union is to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.¹⁷⁵⁷ In order to do so, the European Union must support partner countries in building resilient health systems and continue to support in improvement of primary healthcare services.¹⁷⁵⁸ Vytenis Andriukaitis also noted the EU aims to promote a ‘health in all policies’ approach to ensure that all determinants of health are addressed beyond the health sector including water, sanitation, gender equality and nutrition education. The Commissioner also promoted an investment of EUR100 million into the WHO’s Partnership Programme made in June 2019, which aims to both strengthen health systems and universal health coverage.¹⁷⁵⁹

On 10 October 2019, the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations released a statement in support of the United Nation’s resolution to realize universal health coverage.¹⁷⁶⁰ They emphasized the European Union’s rights-based approach to health by protecting human rights, including sexual and reproduction rights and affirmed their commitment to striving for universal health coverage in Europe and beyond.¹⁷⁶¹

On 17 October 2019, the European Union’s Health Policy Platform hosted its annual meeting focused on establishing the health priorities within Europe.¹⁷⁶² Various health stakeholders and interest groups attended the meeting which consisted of award presentations to cities, non-governmental organizations and schools for efforts in prevention and reduction of obesity, interactive roundtable discussing promotion of healthy weight in young adults, joint statements by stakeholder organizations discussing various health priorities and thematic network proposals to rally support for projects in the upcoming year. The joint statement of one of the stakeholder groups, Nobody Left Outside, focused on the need to expand coverage to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Europe.¹⁷⁶³

On 10 November 2019, the European Union provided Yemen with EUR79 million in order to sustain their health services amidst a violent conflict.¹⁷⁶⁴ This includes access to sanitation, food,

¹⁷⁵⁷ EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en.

¹⁷⁵⁸ EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en.

¹⁷⁵⁹ EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en.

¹⁷⁶⁰ EU Explanation of Position – United Nations General Assembly Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68759/eu-explanation-position-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-universal-health-coverage_en.

¹⁷⁶¹ EU Explanation of Position – United Nations General Assembly Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68759/eu-explanation-position-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-universal-health-coverage_en.

¹⁷⁶² EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/ev_20191017_en.

¹⁷⁶³ EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/ev_20191017_en.

¹⁷⁶⁴ EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en.

water, and healthcare centres.¹⁷⁶⁵ This is part of a wider European Union project in Yemen, which has to date provided EUR440 million in funds to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis.¹⁷⁶⁶

The European Union has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through investments in strengthening health systems by improving primary care services and investments within partner countries and globally. The European Union has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage through committing to spread awareness about vaccines, supporting partner countries in expanding universal health coverage, discussing health policy priorities through reflection and goal setting.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nora Moidu

¹⁷⁶⁵ EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en.

¹⁷⁶⁶ EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en.