

## **Chapter 1: Leading and Managing in Contemporary Health and Social Care**

### **Healthcare provision in Ghana**

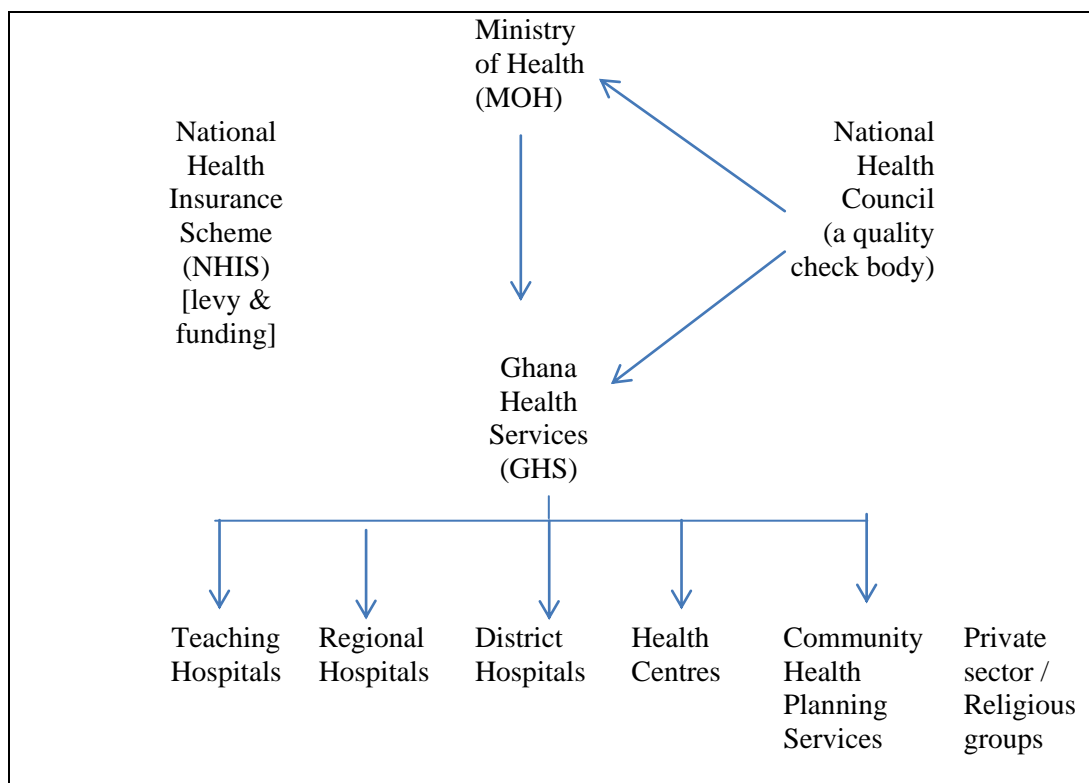
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Ghana Health Services (GHS) is the government agency tasked with the direct mandate of providing and managing accessible healthcare for the people of Ghana in accordance with national policies. The GHS is supervised by the Ministry of Health, which is the government body responsible for formulating policies and strategic directions for healthcare, developing human resources (including health workers) for the health sector and sourcing funding for health delivery in the country. The Ministry of Health and its agencies are governed by the National Health Council (a quality check body).

There are 5 levels of healthcare facilities categorized on the complexity of services they provide. The highest ranked facilities in Ghana are teaching hospitals, followed by the regional hospitals, the district hospitals, health centres, and the Community Health Planning Services (CHPS). There are three teaching hospitals situated in major cities in the northern, central and southern parts of Ghana. In addition, there are regional hospitals situated in all 10 regions (capital towns) of Ghana. The teaching hospitals and the regional hospitals are referral centres for complex services that are not provided in other facilities. The district hospitals are primary care facilities situated in all the districts. The health centres and CHPS, which are situated in the rural communities, are equipped to provide basic services and make referrals to higher level facilities where necessary.

Healthcare facilities in Ghana are predominantly provided by the government, although a significant proportion of healthcare facilities are owned by the private sector as well as religious groups such as the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG).

Since 2005, healthcare in Ghana is free for all citizens under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Citizens receive services when in need at no cost to the individual. Under the NHIS, citizens get access to free consultations and prescriptions for emergency services, maternity care, eye care, oral health, inpatient and outpatient care. Private healthcare providers (including hospitals, clinics, laboratory services and pharmacy shops) are allowed to register under this scheme. The NHIS is financed from a national levy imposed on certain goods and services, payroll deductions from workers in the formal sector and premiums paid by workers in the informal sector. Although structural reforms in the health sector have made recommendations for decentralising resources to local authorities, currently, resources for healthcare provision in Ghana are disbursed from national level for implementing local services.



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