

Advanced Level

World healthcare system for the rich



A new United Nations report has found that healthcare systems across the world are becoming more unequal. The annual World Health Report, launched on October 14th by the World Health Organization

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The WHO recommends a return to a more basic primary health care system that many countries developed in the 1970s. Back then, the sick could visit a family doctor and get the treatment they needed. The report says healthcare no longer focuses on poorer members of society: "Health care is often delivered according to a model that concentrates on diseases, high technology, and specialist care," it stated. WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said: "Viewed against current trends, primary health care looks more and more like a smart way to get health development back on track." She added: "We are, in effect, encouraging countries to go back to the basics." More than 100 million people are pushed below the poverty line each year because they cannot afford healthcare.

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TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. The UN has made a special healthcare system just for rich people.
- b. The gap between rich and poor is 30 times wider than it used to be.
- c. People who live in the same city generally receive the same healthcare.
- d. A UN report says it's sad that hospitals are out to make profits.
- e. The UN recommends a return to the healthcare system of the 1970s.
- f. Healthcare today is based on a system of visiting family doctors.
- g. The UN said today's healthcare systems follow the wrong model.
- h. Healthcare costs push 100 million a year below the poverty line.

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

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PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one. combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. healthcare systems across the world are | a. on track |
| 2. the healthcare gap | b. quality of medical care |
| 3. enormous differences in the | c. are well-off |
| 4. people who | d. could visit a family doctor |
| 5. the saddest conclusion | e. below the poverty line |
| 6. Back then, the sick | f. basics |
| 7. healthcare no longer focuses on | g. becoming more unequal |
| 8. get health development back | h. poorer members of society |
| 9. go back to the | i. of the report |
| 10. 100 million people are pushed | j. between rich and poor people. |