

Revision of the

# System of Health Accounts

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Unit 7

## HC.6 Prevention and public health services

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## **Proposals for the SHA classification:**

### **ICHA-HC item “HC.6 Prevention and public health services”**

'Public health services' can be defined as activities that public health agencies and other partners undertake to protect and ensure the health of the public. Health promotion, which has fast developed for the last couple of decades with the WHO in the center, is a part of those services. However, it may be hard to collect internationally standardized data on the expenditure of public health. In part this is due to the lack of concerns about and, as its result, negligent scale of the expenditure, and in part to the diverse way in which local public health is organized and funded.

In the same way, there is a lack of consistency among sub-categories of the item “HC.6 Prevention and public health services” in the current SHA manual version 1.0. Firstly, current name includes both personal and public health care services at the same time, even though the item HC.6 was expected to include “collective” health services. Prevention can be performed both individually/personally and publicly. Prevention care such as health check-ups are normally classified as personal health care. Secondly, two-digit categories of “HC.6 Prevention and public health services” in the current SHA manual violate the “exclusivity” rule, which should be kept among the same digit items. For example, both ‘HC.6.2 School health services’ and ‘HC.6.5 Occupational health care’ can include a segment of HC.6.3 Prevention of communicable disease. There is a possibility of ‘double counting’.

One proposal is renaming it as ‘HC.6 Public Health Services’ comprising as sub-categories ‘HC.6.1 Prevention’, ‘HC.6.2 Promotion of Healthy Life-style’ and ‘HC.6.3 Others’. In this case, costs for prevention of disease delivered as personal health care (e.g. the medical examination of a healthy person and individual anti-smoking programs etc.) can be separated out under curative care (HC.1) rather than prevention (HC.6.) which includes only collective health care (e.g. school health screening programs).