An outlier in the region…

- Long-standing commitment to universal, publicly-funded health care
- Middle-income country, but spending on health (as share of GDP) exceeds OECD average
- Life expectancy at birth exceeds that of many OECD members.

But broader context is challenging …

- Population is ageing rapidly
- Labour market is increasingly informal
- Socioeconomic inequalities are widening
Much to praise in the health system ...

- Well-established primary care infrastructure
- Ambitious reforms to deliver integrated care
- Extensive inter-sectoral working
- Effective dialogue with service users
- Unified digital health record
... but major concerns as well

Governance:

Attempts at some key reforms have failed

• DRG accounting, hospital accreditation and health technology assessment not routine

• traditional fee-for-service and salary payment mechanisms predominate
... but major concerns as well

Access and quality

Some key performance measures are poor

• Long waiting times for elective surgery

• Door-to-needle times after heart attack worsening
Efficiency and sustainability

Health care spending is increasingly rapidly

- rising by 7% a year (2011-2015),
- mainly accounted for by workforce salaries – *rising by 6% annually*
A mixed picture on population health...

Life expectancy at birth, is close to OECD average...

Smoking rates and alcohol consumption are lower than OECD average...

... but at 65, it is only 7.3 yrs, compared to 19.5 yrs OECD average

... but more than half the population overweight, and physically inactive.
... and the need for complex care will grow

Chronic disease is widespread -

... 8.5% of adults have diabetes, vs. 7.0% in the OECD.

Dementia is expected to rise rapidly...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dementia prevalence per 1 000 pop’n</th>
<th>OECD</th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2037</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A relatively expensive health care system

9.1% GDP spent on health

... exceeding 9.0% OECD average!

Out-of-pocket payments comprise 25% of total financing

vs. 20% in the OECD,

... and going up
... nevertheless, much fewer resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Availability per 1 000 pop’n</th>
<th>OECD</th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital beds</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

... which drives long waiting times.

Risk of a two-tier system?

... 30% of population use private providers at least once a year.
... 50% of population want to stop contributing to CCSS.
Budgetary discipline is poor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>596 435</td>
<td>659 720</td>
<td>710 057</td>
<td>752 589</td>
<td>806 089</td>
<td>878 382</td>
<td><strong>8.1%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...of which, operational spending</td>
<td>592 006</td>
<td>652 730</td>
<td>705 943</td>
<td>746 851</td>
<td>798 708</td>
<td>866 441</td>
<td><strong>7.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...of which, salaries</td>
<td>420 578</td>
<td>453 677</td>
<td>479 338</td>
<td>516 333</td>
<td>548 532</td>
<td>586 605</td>
<td><strong>6.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY CARE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>259 454</td>
<td>278 924</td>
<td>291 415</td>
<td>318 999</td>
<td>331 572</td>
<td>357 409</td>
<td><strong>6.6%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...of which, operational spending</td>
<td>256 557</td>
<td>276 365</td>
<td>289 873</td>
<td>316 645</td>
<td>328 660</td>
<td>354 001</td>
<td><strong>6.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...of which, salaries</td>
<td>160 935</td>
<td>174 235</td>
<td>180 566</td>
<td>197 956</td>
<td>210 821</td>
<td>225 992</td>
<td><strong>7.1%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quality: some excellent outcomes

Breast cancer five-year net survival, 2000-2004 and 2010-2014
...others more troubling

% of hip fractures operated on within 48hr,
2005 and 2015 (or nearest year)
Key recommendations

Reform health system governance by

- strengthening external scrutiny of CCSS objectives and performance; and

- increasing participation in international benchmarking initiatives.
Key recommendations

*Improve access and quality* by

- expanding the supply of the health care workforce;
- allowing choice of provider; and,
- reinstituting performance management in hospitals.
Key recommendations

**Strengthen efficiency and financial sustainability by**

- more robust controls on public expenditure;

- reforming payment systems;

- systematising HTA; and,

- increasingly funding health care from the general government budget.
In summary...

A health system with many examples of good practice that other systems could learn from.

...but significant reforms needed to better monitor and improve performance.
Stay in touch!

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Note: The charts in this presentation are from *Health at a Glance 2017* and are available via the Statlinks within the publication.