

Position on Universal Health Coverage

Background

For many people around the world, good health is out of reach because of the accessibility or affordability of healthcare services.

Universal health coverage (UHC) is a global priority, championed by the World Health Organization and promoted by governments worldwide. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, all United Nations Member States, including the United States, have committed to achieving UHC by 2030. Doing so will help build healthier communities and stronger economies.

Relevance

At Johnson & Johnson, the world's largest and most broadly based healthcare company—reaching patients and consumers each day with its medicines, consumer products and medical technologies—we believe that good health is at the heart of human progress. Good health enables children to thrive, families and communities to prosper and countries to achieve economic security. That is why we drive relentlessly towards achieving UHC.

Guiding Principles

Johnson & Johnson's [Our Credo](#) states: “We believe our first responsibility is to the patients, doctors, and nurses, to mothers and fathers and all others who use our products and services.”

Our Position

We believe that everyone should have access to quality, affordable healthcare services that they need, regardless of where they live. We support UHC through initiatives in the following key areas:

- **Workforce and infrastructure:** A robust health system with well-trained and well-supported health workers is foundational to achieving UHC. We believe a holistic approach helps ensure that:
 - 1) Young people can gain the knowledge and support to enter health-related careers.
 - 2) Health workers are provided with opportunities to strengthen their skills and advance their careers.
 - 3) Health systems' resilience to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is prioritized to ensure health worker well-being and retention.
 - 4) Health systems are equipped with the supplies and tools they need to deliver quality care.
- **Access and affordability:** Patients and communities must have access to care, including drugs, vaccines, surgical care, and other medical technologies needed to prevent and treat diseases and address public health needs. We support the UHC goal of health equity and engage stakeholders

throughout the world to achieve broad and timely access to our medical products at sustainable prices that aim to be locally affordable. Safe, authentic medicines must be procured and in stock at the local- and primary-care levels. This holds true for many medicines that currently are available as generics, as well as newer, more innovative medicines. Ensuring access to innovative products can help individual patients and free up health system resources.

- **Sustainable financing:** While UHC is an important, unifying goal, there is no single universal approach to how UHC is financed and delivered through government, non-profit or private-sector channels. Rather, each country must tailor strategies that align to local needs, resources, market conditions and societal values. UHC can be established through a variety of models and systems, but all require sustainable financing for both providers and patients. This is particularly important during periods of global economic headwinds when efforts are needed to expand finances for health. Financing considerations should account for the full complexity of the healthcare system, rather than addressing specific issues in isolation. We support investments that spur the development of innovative ecosystems, such as value-based care and digital health, to advance the implementation of effective solutions for health systems. Johnson & Johnson Impact Ventures (JJIV) aims to accelerate access to affordable, quality healthcare for all. Since 2019, JJIV has invested in companies and supported entrepreneurs innovating to improve health equity for underserved patients around the world. In 2022, JJIV received its first return on investment and has reinvested the financial returns into new investments.
- **Shared accountability:** While governments have a leading role in building health systems, financing and/or delivering care, the inherent complexity of healthcare requires a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in the effective design, implementation and delivery of care for all. The public, private and nonprofit sectors have a shared responsibility and accountability toward achieving UHC. Appropriate, transparent ways to measure and track country-level progress toward key bellwether outcomes for health system capacity are crucial to ensuring this accountability.

Activities to Support UHC: At Johnson & Johnson, we are firmly committed to doing our part to ensure the promise of UHC becomes a reality for patients, families and communities around the world. We partner with stakeholders through a mix of global and country-specific policy and advocacy efforts. Around the world, we support hundreds of health-related programs, and we strive to align with government priorities and advocate for quality healthcare. We believe that tailored strategies that align local needs, resources and market conditions must be part of the solution.

Application

This Position is relevant for the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, as detailed in our [governance materials](#). We provide updates relating to UHC in our annual [Health for Humanity Report](#) where relevant.

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