

FLYER

A HEALTH RIGHTS ADVOCACY FORUM (HERAF) PUBLICATION

DEFINING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

MY RIGHTS	WHAT THIS MEANS
<p>AVAILABILITY</p> <p>I have a right to have functional health facilities within my reach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government should ensure there is a functioning health facility (dispensary, health centre or hospital) in my community. The health facility should have the needed equipment, sufficient stock of essential medicines and medical supplies at all times. Essential services such as maternal, child and reproductive health services, accident and emergency services, and immunization and vaccination should be sufficient to meet the needs of the community. The health facility should have adequate number of health care workers to attend to all patients in shortest time possible.
<p>ACCESSIBILITY</p> <p>I have a right to access health care services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health facilities and the services offered must be within reach. That is, no one should be discriminated against (regardless of gender, age, ethnic group/tribe, religion, economic status, level of education and dress code among others) when seeking for health services. The health facility should be at least 5km from home. All health services offered should be affordable – not too expensive that one cannot afford to pay for. The information about the facility, services available and their costs should be easily obtained in order to enable all clients make informed decisions.
<p>ACCEPTABILITY</p> <p>Health facilities, goods and services offered must be acceptable and appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health facility should offer goods and services including treatment that are respectful to medical ethics and are culturally acceptable. Health services and treatment offered should be sensitive to the needs of girls, women, boys and men including those in the middle age and the elderly. Individual medical conditions should be handled with confidentiality and must not be revealed to any other party other than the health care workers involved in the treatment.
<p>QUALITY</p> <p>I have a right to receive safe and high quality health care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health facilities, goods, services and information offered must be scientifically and medically appropriate. The medical staff in the health facilities must be qualified and skilled. The drugs, treatments and equipment used must be of good quality and appropriate. Individuals should receive open, timely and appropriate communication about their health in a way they can understand. They should also be given an opportunity to give feedback about the quality of the health services and have their concerns dealt with properly and promptly.

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