

# What is Healthcare Policy?

Healthcare policies are the decisions, plans and actions undertaken to achieve specific healthcare goals within a society. These policies influence the accessibility, pricing and delivery of health care services.

Medical professionals play a key role in the [NR 361 Milestone 1](#) of healthcare policies. They provide an insider's viewpoint that helps shape and educate government representatives and policymakers.

## Area of Interest

Healthcare policy encompasses the decisions, plans and actions a society takes to achieve specific healthcare goals. This includes regulations, laws and guidelines formulated by legislators on a local, state or national level to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent the spread of [NR 451 Week 3 Healthcare Policy](#) diseases. Healthcare policies also govern the funding, pricing and delivery of medical services.

Many of the most debated healthcare policies focus on how to finance personal health care and spread the economic risk that a person might incur through illness. Policy options include public financing through taxation or insurance, a single-payer system, and private financial incentives to provide care in low-cost settings such as ambulatory surgery centers.

Medical professionals have a big role in the development of healthcare policies as they directly interact with patients and help educate representatives about [NR 500 Week 5 Area of Interest PowerPoint Presentation](#) and future health trends. Having an understanding of the policy process can help your career as a nurse or healthcare administrator, as you may be able to identify and create new regulations that benefit both patient care and the healthcare system overall.

## Theoretical Framework

A theoretical framework is an approach that a researcher uses to understand and investigate a phenomenon. It represents a set of assumptions about how variables are related and it builds upon the results of previous research in a similar area. A theoretical framework is [NR 501 Theoretical Framework to Support Evidence based Practice](#) included in a literature review section near the beginning of a study and provides context for the methods used to collect and analyze data.

A good theoretical framework identifies and defines the important variables and describes their relationships with each other. It also explains how and why they relate to the problem at hand. A well-developed theoretical framework also offers an explanation of any moderating and mediating variables that may influence the relationship between independent and dependent variables. A theoretical [NR 500 Week 2 Artistic Expression Caring Concept](#) should also provide a solid basis for the design of an experiment and a clear understanding of how and why the results are expected to differ from those of other studies in the same field.