

Table 1 Final list of standards to be included in the framework for assessing stewardship of the oral health system in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Sub-function of stewardship/Standard	Appropriateness scores (1 = most appropriate, 21 = least appropriate)	
	Relevance	Importance
Generation of intelligence		
1. To strengthen the information infrastructure, MOH must develop the national oral health information system	4	4
2. Data and research evidence about the oral health status of the public, workforce structure and distribution of financial information and information about oral health determinants must be registered in the national oral health information system	4	4
Strategic policy direction		
1. MOH must consider the opinions of the main stakeholders' in formulating the oral health system decisions	1	3
2. MOH must devote a specific proportion of the oral health system research budget for evaluation of health system policies in order to strengthen the evidence base for policy development	2	3
3. MOH must clearly define the roles of the public, private and voluntary sectors in financing, provision, resource generation and stewardship functions	3	4
4. In the evaluation, decision-making and approval processes, MOH must emphasize the processes of situation analysis, systematic review of evidence and critical appraisal of the proposed programmes	3	4
5. In delegating the decision-making process, MOH must have strategies in place to utilize the potency and capacities of the medical science universities, research centres and nongovernmental organizations	3	4
6. MOH must design clear strategic plans for dental education, the oral health system, delivery of care and hygiene promotion	3	4
7. MOH must have initiatives in place to ensure that the activities of various decision-making councils of the oral health system are consistent with overall national priorities.	4	3
8. In formulating policy priorities, MOH must include international and regional commitments and goals	4	4
Regulation		
1. MOH must clarify the target group for each of the defined regulations of the oral health system	1	2
2. MOH must clarify what violation means for each of the defined regulations of the oral health system	1	3
3. MOH must establish regulations for assuring the quality of the dental care and services provided	1	4
4. MOH must devise regulations to assure the safety and cost-effectiveness of drugs and dental materials used in the oral health system	1	4
5. MOH must clarify the penalties and sanctions commensurate with malpractice at individual and institutional levels for each of the defined regulatory initiatives in the oral health system	1	4
6. MOH must enforce regulations to require producers to disclose on the packaging the basic ingredients within dental products	2	3
7. MOH must devise and establish regulations about "need certification" for dental care settings to manage the supply of dentists	2	3
8. MOH should consider active participation in local, national and regional oral health planning to cover the special needs of disadvantaged populations	2	4
9. MOH must have regulations in place for determining and controlling the fees of oral health interventions provided by physicians	2	4
10. MOH must determine a surveillance entity for monitoring and evaluating performance as defined by the oral health regulations	2	4

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Sub-function of stewardship/Standard	Appropriateness scores (1 = most appropriate, 21 = least appropriate)	
	Relevance	Importance
11. MOH must devise, and review regularly, regulations for the licensing and accreditation of providers	2	4
12. MOH must devise and establish regulations about the ethical code of conducts of providers	2	4
13. MOH must devise and enforce regulations for instituting dental care delivery organizations	2	4
14. MOH must formulate the regulatory initiatives for disciplinary actions, professional misconduct and malpractice by dental practitioners	2	4
15. MOH must introduce essential instruments and checklists for performance monitoring and evaluation of the defined oral health system regulatory initiatives	2	4
16. MOH must develop regulations to govern property rights in the oral health system	3	4
17. Based on the needs and requirements of various regions, MOH must establish and enforce regulations for water fluoridation	3	4
18. MOH must set rules to establish basic conditions for market exchange, to correct any failure in the health market and to achieve the goals that a free market for dental care is not able to attain	4	4
Intersectoral leadership		
1. MOH must organize intersectoral initiatives to address and manage common public health risk factors	3	4
2. In order to manage the broader social determinants of oral health, MOH must form and participate in a committee represented by other ministries in order to build the necessary coalition	4	4
3. To achieve intersectoral leadership, MOH functions must incorporate: advocacy, stakeholder analysis, resolving disputes, planning common intersectoral programmes	4	4
Alignment of policy and organizational structure		
1. MOH must have special policies in place to support evidence-based community preventive programmes	1	3
2. MOH must devise an operational plan for each of the formulated policies	2	4
3. MOH must allocate adequate operational funding for implementation of the newly adopted policies related to the oral health system	3	3
4. For effective implementation of the formulated policies, MOH must have strategies in place to monitor and evaluate the performance of various sections and administrators	4	3
5. MOH must specify the responsible executive bodies and cooperative institutions for each of the designed policies of the oral health system	4	4
Accountability		
1. All oral health system administrators at different management levels (providers, payers, producers of other resources and stewards) must be accountable for their actions	4	3
2. Oral health system administrators must be accountable to the population, stewards in upper levels of management and to auditory and accreditation institutions	4	4

MOH = Ministry of Health and Medical Education.