

HEALTHCARE POLICY

CARE FOR EVERY LIFE, DIGNITY FOR EVERY STAGE

I. VISION

To build a **universal, people-centred, rights-based, and digitally connected health system** that offers equitable access to **preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care** for every person in Guyana — regardless of geography, income, or social status.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

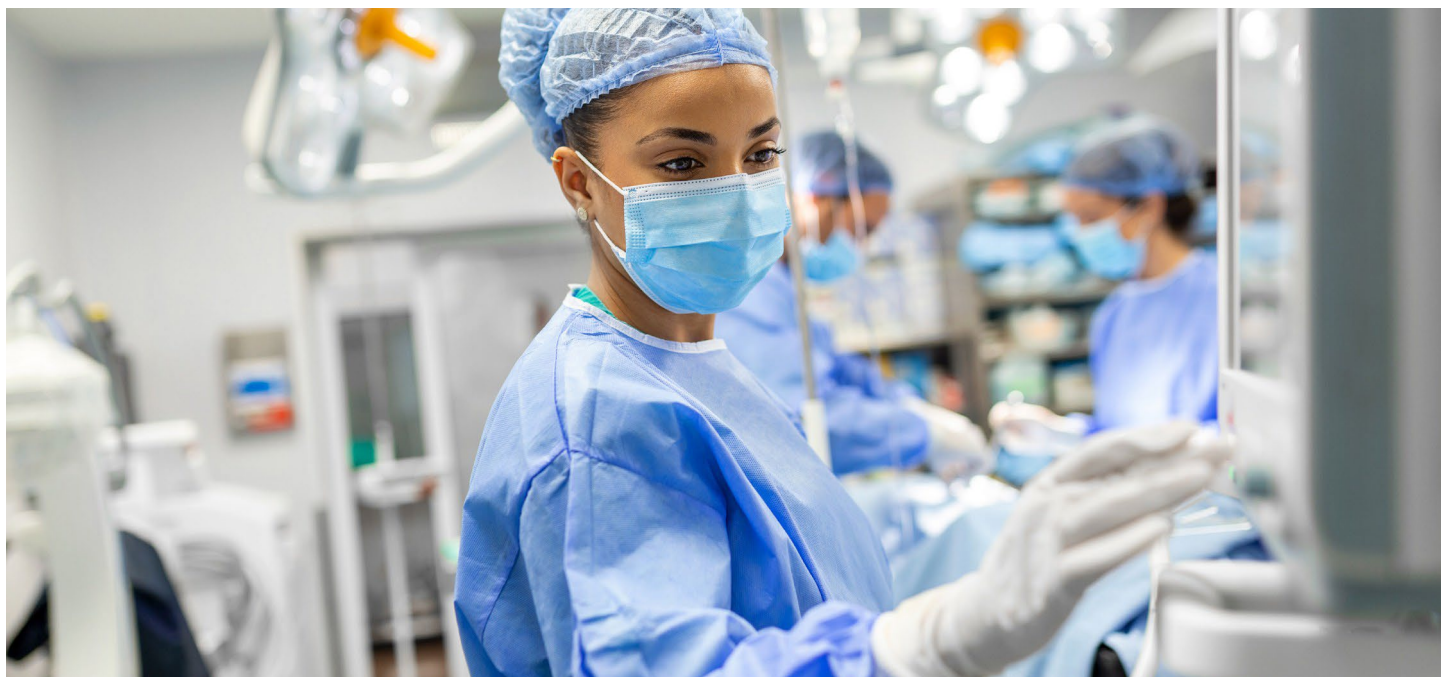
- **Universal Access & Equity:** Healthcare as a right, not a privilege
- **Community First:** Decentralized, locally relevant health responses
- **Continuum of Care:** From prevention to palliation, cradle to dignity in death
- **Workforce Strengthening:** Invest in, protect, and retain health workers
- **Mental Health Parity:** Mind and body health treated equally
- **Technological Advancement:** Leverage AI, data, and telemedicine
- **Resilience & Sustainability:** Climate-smart, future-ready health systems
- **Accountability & Transparency:** Public oversight and citizen participation

III. STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE HEALTHCARE POLICY

1. UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CARE & PREVENTION

- **Free access to primary healthcare** at every health post and centre
- **Free Community Health Screenings** for:
 - All **high school students** annually (vision, hearing, dental, blood pressure, etc.)
 - All **public service employees**- Pre-employment and annually
- **Vaccination and Immunization Program** with full national coverage and mobile outreach in Indigenous and hinterland communities





- **School Health Program** integrated into the Ministry of Education, including hygiene, nutrition, sexual health, mental wellness, and fitness

2. MENTAL HEALTH AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY

- **Mental Health Services as a Standalone Budgeted Programme** in the Ministry of Health
- Establish a **National Mental Health Institute** to:
 - Offer culturally competent training and conduct applied research
 - Integrate a “whole-person” approach to mental health care
- Deploy a **Mental Health Workers Corps** in:
 - Every regional hospital and community health centre
 - Schools and training institutions in partnership with the Ministry of Education
- Launch a **National Mental Health Education & Anti-Stigma Campaign**,

integrated into the curriculum from **primary to university**

- Establish 24/7 crisis response hotlines and community mental health first responder units

3. HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

- Immediate recruitment of **1,000 nurses**, doctors, and allied health professionals
- Incentivize diaspora and Commonwealth professionals to return or serve via exchange programs
- Increase **pay, housing, hardship allowances, and continuing education** for health professionals
- **Nursing and Dental Schools** to be established in underserved regions:
 - **Nursing Schools** in Regions 1, 7, and 9
 - **Dental Schools** in coastal and hinterland locations for nationwide access
- Launch a **Pre-Nursing High School Curriculum Track** in partnership with the Ministry of Education



4. UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND MEDICATION

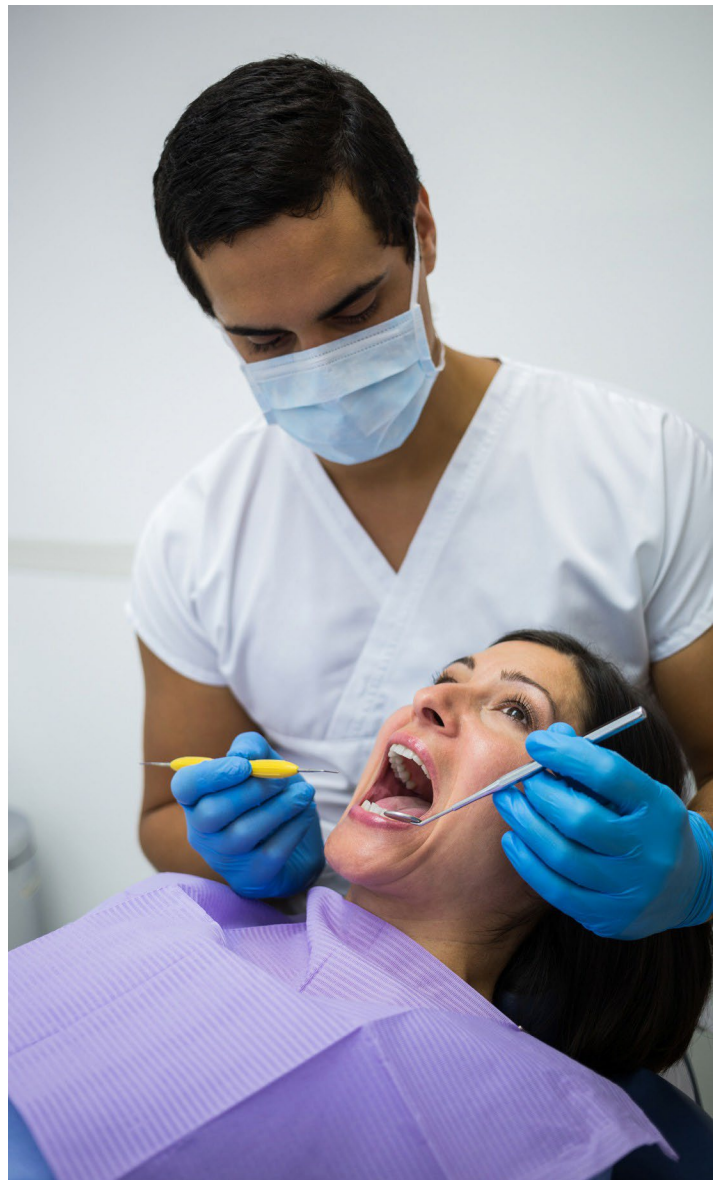
- **Free Dialysis Services** for all in need, regardless of employment status
- **Subsidized Essential Medications and Lab Tests** across public health facilities for chronic and infectious diseases
- Standardize a **National Essential Medicines List** to eliminate drug shortages
- Strengthen and localize the **Health Supply Chain System** to reduce stockouts, wastage, and corruption

5. DIGITAL HEALTH & INNOVATION

- Implement **Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)** nationwide within 3 years
- Use **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to assist in diagnostics, data modelling, and resource deployment
- Expand **telemedicine** services to hinterland and rural communities
- Build a **National Health Data Repository** to drive evidence-based decision-making

6. COMMUNITY & LIFESTYLE-BASED WELLNESS

- Develop regional and national programs to tackle non-communicable diseases (NCDs):
- Hypertension, Type 2 Diabetes, Cancer, Kidney Disease, and Obesity
- Expand **community-based exercise, nutrition, and support groups** in collaboration with local NGOs
- Launch a **Maternal and Child Nutrition Voucher Programme** for pregnant women and children under 5
- Support local production and availability



of **healthy, affordable foods**

7. CLIMATE-RESILIENT, SMART HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- All new health facilities to be **SMART certified**: energy-efficient, climate-ready, disaster-resilient
- Upgrade existing facilities with **solar, water harvesting, and resilient design**
- Establish **Green Health Zones** in each region as pilot models of sustainable health delivery



8. **PALLIATIVE CARE & DIGNITY IN END-OF-LIFE**

- Integrate **palliative care** services into all regional hospitals
- Establish **home care support systems** for elderly and terminally ill patients
- Train **palliative care specialists and caregivers** in all health regions
- Develop **hospice care units** in at least three hospitals within 5 years

9. **PARTNERSHIPS, FINANCING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Establish dedicated **funding streams for NGO and CSO-led health programs**
- Expand **public-private partnerships** for specialty care and innovation
- Promote **community health committees** to monitor and guide regional service delivery
- Ensure **health budget transparency** and **citizen audits**

IV. **TIMELINE & MILESTONES**

PERIOD	KEY MILESTONES
First 100 Days	National Mental Health Programme launch; Dialysis Free Care Order issued
Year 1	Mental Health Institute opens; EMR rollout begins; 1,000 new nurses hired
Year 2	Dental schools constructed; SMART facilities conversion starts; vouchers deployed
Year 3	National Mental Health Corps active; Hospice services established
Year 5	Full EMR coverage; Universal Primary Care certified; Health System Resilience Index published

V. **CONCLUSION: HEALTH AS A HUMAN RIGHT**

The AFC affirms that **health is the foundation of development**. A nation cannot thrive if its people are sick, anxious, undernourished, or dying without dignity. This policy ensures that **every citizen—urban or hinterland, rich or poor—has access to comprehensive, respectful, affordable healthcare** from birth to death.

Let us build a **health system that saves lives, promotes wellness, ends suffering, and protects futures**.

AFC: BUILDING A HEALTHY GUYANA—ONE CITIZEN, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.

