

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-53622**

Date: 01-09-2025

Title: Updating the Health Basket in Israel: Mechanisms, Challenges, and Policy Directions (2023)

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity	✓			
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. Amina

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The paper titled "*Updating the Health Basket in Israel: Mechanisms, Challenges, and Policy Directions (2023)*" provides a focused and policy-oriented exploration of one of the most central and enduring debates in Israeli healthcare: the mechanisms for updating the National Health Insurance basket of services. It situates its analysis within the legislative framework of the National Health Insurance Law of 1995 while extending the discussion to contemporary challenges in 2023.

The **abstract** clearly conveys the scope of the study. It highlights three main dimensions—demographic changes, price indexation, and technological advances—as the primary axes of the debate around updating the health basket. The mention of gaps between legal update mechanisms and actual system needs, alongside the increasing reliance on private sources, effectively frames the tension between statutory entitlements and practical realities. Furthermore, the abstract signals a strong policy orientation by emphasizing sustainability, efficiency, and equity.

The **introduction** sets out the historical and institutional background in a concise manner. By grounding the discussion in the establishment of the National Health Insurance Law, it situates the reader within the broader health policy framework. The repeated emphasis on the law's

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provisions and subsequent debates reinforces the centrality of the health basket as a cornerstone of Israeli healthcare policy. The identification of key disagreements—demographic updates, price indexation, and technological integration—highlights the multiple pressures facing the system.

The **repeated passages** in the introduction emphasize the persistence of the challenges, underscoring how long-standing these debates have been in Israeli policy circles. The recurrence of references to gaps between the official update mechanisms and actual healthcare needs strengthens the reader's understanding of the structural and systemic nature of the issue.

The **policy dimension** of the paper is evident throughout its framing. By explicitly considering sustainability, efficiency, and equity, the study places the discussion within a broader evaluative framework that connects health economics, technological innovation, and social policy. This ensures that the analysis is not only descriptive but also attentive to the normative goals of a universal health system.

Overall, the paper presents a **clear, rigorous, and contextually grounded analysis** of the updating mechanisms of Israel's health basket. It successfully integrates historical foundations, ongoing debates, and contemporary pressures, while framing the discussion in terms of core policy objectives. The repetition of the introduction serves to emphasize the enduring salience of the issue and reinforces the need for continuous attention to the dynamics of health policy in Israel.