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# National health workforce accreditation and regulation in Palestine: a qualitative assessment

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## Abstract

**Background** The Health Workforce Accreditation and Regulation (HWAR) is a set of policies and processes designed to improve the quality of health services and the performance of health professionals. Various efforts were implemented, mainly by WHO, to advance and strengthen practices and activities of HWAR. In Palestine, HWAR seems to be lagging and to require strengthening at both national policy and institutional levels, based on local evidence. HWAR is rarely investigated in Palestine and possibly also in the Eastern Mediterranean. We aimed to assess the current status of HWAR in Palestine, to identify the challenges, and to propose useful policy and technical actions for the effectiveness of HWAR.

**Methods** We did a qualitative assessment with a purposive sampling strategy to identify key informants from health authorities and institutions in government institutions (Palestinian Ministry of Health and National Legislative Council), academia (universities), and private and non-governmental organisations. Ethical and administration approvals were obtained from the Helsinki Committee at the Palestinian Health Research Council. The study was implemented from mid-October to mid-November, 2019. 22 in-depth interviews were done with key personnel from leadership and policy levels, including health policy makers, experts, and academics (six female, 16 male). Open questions in the interviews covered HWAR domains: conceptual, governance and policy, technical practices, resource and capacity, and gaps and solutions. Triangulated qualitative methods (thematic and ground theory) were used for data analysis and management.

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