

## Chapter 6 Health needs assessment – answers

### Self assessment

#### Question 1 of 4

Answer D – variations in admissions due to multiple injuries due to road traffic accidents. Rates of admission for severe and life threatening conditions tend not to be influenced by supply.

The other options are classic examples of supply-induced demand as availability of health facilities influences their utilisation.

#### Question 2 of 4

Answer D – not needed, demanded and not supplied. Antibiotics are not beneficial; they may be demanded by the patient but are not normally provided.

#### Question 3 of 4

Answer C – expressed need. The need is expressed by seeking help.

Normative need is defined by experts. An example would be patients attending an annual health check in response to recommendations by their doctor. Comparative need compares one group with another, for example in different geographical locations. Felt need is not correct in this example as need is not only 'felt' but also stated.

#### Question 4 of 4

Answer C – focus group. This is one of the methods of capturing qualitative information.

Representatives of the public or local opinion leaders are selected on citizens' juries. Experts give evidence and jurors have an opportunity to ask questions and debate the answers. Rapid appraisal techniques involve the public directly in the assessment and definition of local needs through a series of face-to-face interviews with knowledgeable local informants in the community

### Short answer questions

#### Question 1 of 6

- Expressed needs (needs expressed by action, for instance visiting a doctor)
- Normative needs (defined by experts)
- Comparative needs (comparing one group of people with another)
- Felt needs (those needs people perceive they have)

#### Question 2 of 6

Tonsillectomy in children with one or two episodes of throat infection; this service may be demanded by patients and supplied by the health service. However, evidence shows that it is of limited clinical benefit in the majority of children. Hence it is not needed.

#### Question 3 of 6

The aim of a health needs assessment is to describe health problems in a population and differences within and between different groups in order to determine health priorities and unmet need. It should identify where people are able to benefit either from health care or from wider social and environmental changes and balance any potential change against clinical, ethical and economic considerations: that is, what can be done, what should be done and what can be afforded.

#### Question 4 of 6

The objectives of a health needs assessment are to plan health services, gather health intelligence, achieve equity, target resources efficiently and involve stakeholders.

#### Question 5 of 6

First described by Tudor Hart in 1971, this law states that the availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely to the need for it in the population served.

#### Question 6 of 6

The stages of a planning cycle include assessment of population health status, identification and ranking of health care priorities, developing purchasing strategies, contract specification, service delivery and monitoring and evaluation.