



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Health and Medical Education
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Unfair International Sanctions and its Role on Access To Medicines in Iran

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Outline

- Economic sanctions' potential impact on access to medicines
- Policy strategies for reducing economic hardship's impact on access to medicines
- Media analysis of economic sanctions
- Measuring negative effects of sanctions on access to medicines
- Concluding remarks

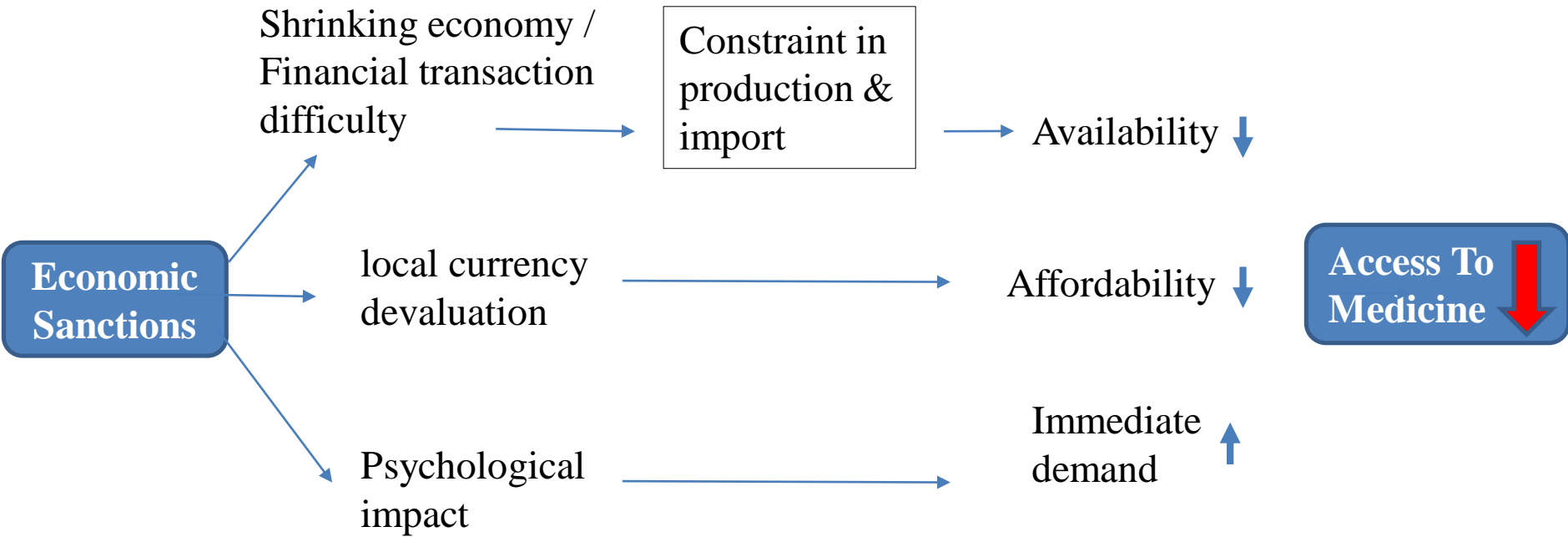


Economic sanctions and I.R. Iran

- Iran had suffered from a relatively continuous string of sanctions by certain international powers since the Islamic revolution in 1979.
- These have resulted in a resilient and self-relying economy.
- E.g. 97% of medicine items are produced by local companies.
- In 2011 the country was put under extensive and widespread international sanctions, targeting financing and business sectors and all international monetary transactions.
 - **SWIFT transactions and the Central Bank of Iran (2012)**



Potential impact of sanctions on national baking system on access to medicines





Policy strategies for reducing economic hardship's impact on access to medicines

Table 1: List of pharmaceutical policies adopted by high income countries

Country	WHO access to medicines factors	Pharmaceutical policies	Further policy details
Estonia	Rational selection and use of medicines	Promoting prescribing and use of generic medicines	Holding educational programs to increase public awareness about generic drugs
	Sustainable financing for medicines	Resource mobilization for medicines Efficient allocation of pharmaceutical resources	Increasing medicine VAT Provision of cheaper medicines for pharmacies Introducing reference based pricing for reimbursement
	Affordability of medicines	Medicines price reduction Enforcing generic prescribing or dispensing	Regulating medicine prices for reimbursed medicines Physicians had to prescribe medicines by their INN Pharmacists had to offer the cheapest medicines to the patients
Greece	Sustainable financing for medicines	Resource mobilization for medicines Efficient allocation of pharmaceutical resources	Increase in VAT for medicines, followed by reductions in VATs Reintroducing positive and negative lists for insuring medicines
	Affordability of medicines	Medicines price reduction	Regular price reviews Reducing prices through decreasing profit margins for pharmacies and wholesalers Implementing tenders for hospitals' medicines
Iceland	Sustainable financing for medicines	Resource mobilization for medicines Efficient allocation of pharmaceutical resources	Increasing pharmacy margins Increasing user co-payments Changing reference pricing regulation
	Affordability of medicines	User financial protection	Changing reimbursement status of some medicine groups
Italy	Rational selection and use of medicines	Provider pay for performance strategies	Implementing "pay for performance" model for health care providers
	Sustainable financing for medicines	Resource mobilization for medicines Efficient allocation of pharmaceutical resources	Increasing indirect business tax to generate more finance in health sector Increasing pharmacy margins Revising medicine pricing method based on their efficacy

Several interventions were applied by FDA to ensure ATM is least affected

Source: Kheirandish et al. *J Res Pharm Pract* 2015;4:115-22.

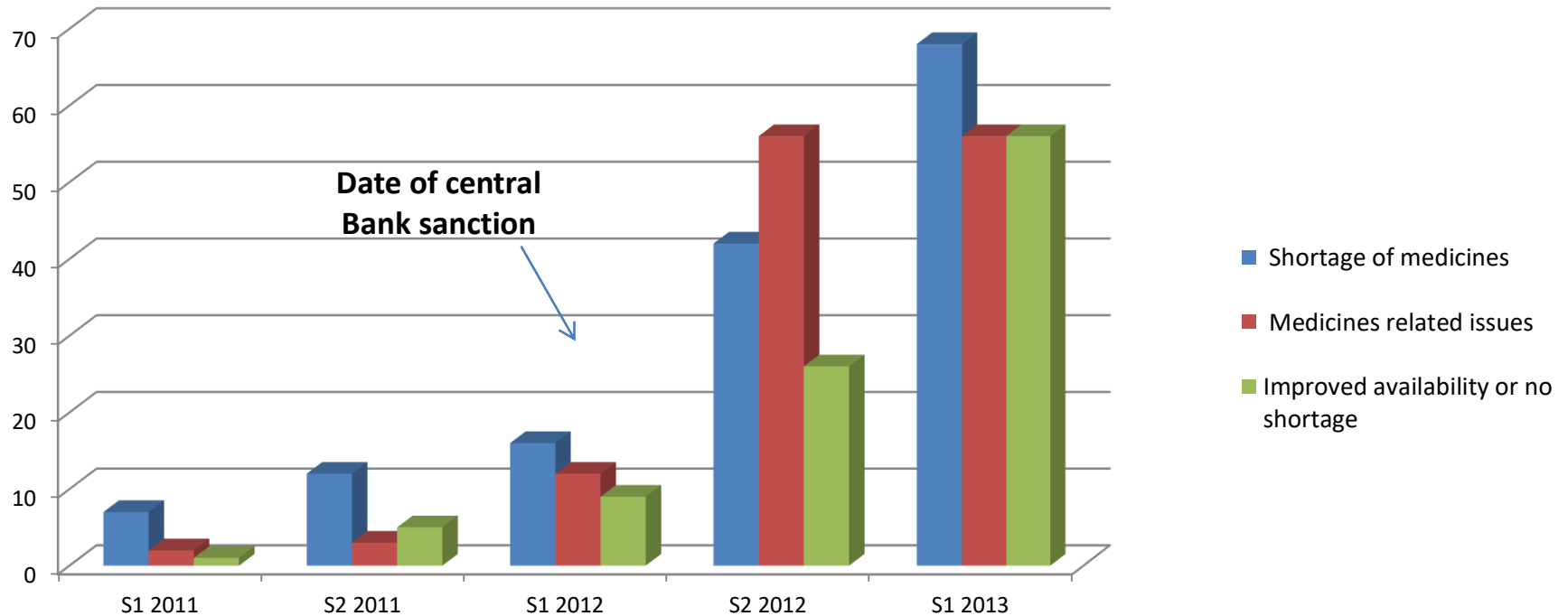


Media analysis of economic sanctions

- Media has an important role to clarify the real situation and impacts of the crisis on public
- It was claimed by international powers that the pharmaceutical sector in Iran was not targeted by the sanctions
- Media analysis demonstrated a different picture of negative effects on some groups of patients access to medicines



Trend of news media on medicine shortages



Source: Kheirandish et al. J Res Pharm Pract 2015;4:199-205.



Measuring negative effects of sanctions on access to medicines

- NCD medicines have a critical role in attaining universal health coverage.
- Access to effective, high quality and affordable health services for NCDs Is key.
- Interrupted time series analysis is a robust method to assess the impact of interventions on nonrandomized samples (e.g. at national level).
- This model enabled us to assess both immediate and long-term effects of economic sanctions on access to medicines.



Effects on access to selected NCD medicines

Therapeutic groups	Samples number	Type of production			Banking system sanction 2011		CBI sanction 2012	
		Domestic	Imported	Both	Immediate	Gradual	Immediate	Gradual
Diabetes	5	1	-	4	-	3 (p>0.05)	1 (p>0.05)	2 (p<0.05) 2 (p>0.05)
Asthma	5	-	-	5	-	1 (p<0.05) 1 (p>0.05)	3 (p>0.05)	2 (p<0.05) 1 (p>0.05)
Cancer	14	2	8	4	2 (p<0.05) 4 (p>0.05)	4 (p<0.05) 4 (p>0.05)	1 (p<0.05) 4 (p>0.05)	5 (p<0.05) 3 (p>0.05)

Source Kheirandish et al. *East Mediterr Health J.* 2018;24(1):42–51.



Concluding remarks

- Despite the claims of the sanctions in sparing health care and medicines, they affected this sector.
- Medicines cannot be separated from international economic sanctions, especially when the banking systems are targeted.
- I.R. Iran implemented many interventions to reduce the negative impacts of sanctions on population health and access.
- Country is giving further emphasis on local production, rational use of medicines and further improving the supply chain
 - To reduce the impact of current unjustified sanctions on access to medicines.

