

**Table 5 Elements of health systems useful for making meaningful comparisons**

Dimension	Recommended sample types of information for comparisons	Dimension	Recommended sample types of information for comparisons
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual level socio-demographic characteristics, eg, age, race/ethnicity</li> <li>• Individual level socio-economic characteristics, eg, educational attainment, income, wealth</li> <li>• Individual level health behaviour characteristics, eg, smoking, chemical dependency, obesity, diet</li> <li>• Life expectancy</li> <li>• Patterns of relevant chronic and acute conditions</li> <li>• Relevant cultural factors, eg, gender equality, expectations and norms for health care use</li> </ul>	Utilisation Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average length of stay</li> <li>• Specialty procedure rates</li> <li>• Number of hospitals, total number of hospital beds, hospital bed occupancy rates</li> <li>• Additional types of facilities, e.g., skilled nursing, rehab</li> <li>• Technology availability and use, e.g., PET/MRI/CT scanners</li> <li>• Primary care and specialty care visit rates</li> </ul>
Professional Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physician supply: total, specialty, and generalist/primary care</li> <li>• Nurse supply</li> <li>• Supply of other health professionals, eg, physiotherapists, health behaviourists</li> <li>• Roles and scope of practice</li> <li>• Educational preparation for health professionals</li> <li>• Competencies</li> <li>• Specialisation demands</li> </ul>	Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process measures, eg, screening rates</li> <li>• Patient satisfaction</li> <li>• Process, structure, and outcomes measures</li> <li>• Use of evidence-based practices</li> <li>• Care wait times</li> <li>• Adverse event rates</li> <li>• Perceived quality</li> </ul>
Delivery System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisational structure and governance</li> <li>• Reimbursement/payment systems</li> <li>• Local variations in organisational patterns</li> <li>• Service delivery model</li> <li>• Economic and non-economic incentives</li> <li>• Continuity of care between settings and over time</li> <li>• Supports for evidence-based practices</li> <li>• Information technology</li> </ul>	Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPP per capita health care costs</li> <li>• Gross expenditures</li> <li>• Payment schemes</li> <li>• Benefit and entitlements</li> <li>• Alternative adjustment methodologies</li> <li>• Sources of funding</li> <li>• Operating expenditures</li> <li>• Unit cost and units consumed</li> </ul>