**Primary health care**

**(PHC) became a core policy for the World Health Organization with the Alma-Ata Declaration in 1978 and the ‘Health-for-All by the Year 2000’ Program.  
The commitment to global improvements in health, especially for the most disadvantaged populations, was renewed in 1998 by the World Health Assembly. This led to the ‘Health-for-All for the twenty-first Century’ policy and program, within which the commitment to PHC development is restated.**

**Primary Health Care (PHC)**

**Definition .**

**PHC is Essential health care based on practical, Scientifically Sound and Socially Acceptable methods and technology made Universally Accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full Participation at a Cost that the community and country can Afford to maintain at every stage of their development the spirit of Self- Reliance and Self- Determination.**

**Principles of PHC**

**1-Universal coverage of the population, with care provided according to need. This is the call of equity. No one should be left out, no matter how poor or how remote.**

**2-Services should be promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative.**

**Services should not be only curative, but also should be promotive to the population’s understanding of health and healthy style of life, and reach toward the root causes of diseases with preventive emphasis.**

**Treatment of illness and rehabilitation are important as well.**

**3-Services should be Effective, Culturally Acceptable, Affordable & Manageable.**

**Services must be effective. Cultural acceptability and effectiveness are mutually dependent. Services must be affordable in local terms as governmental resources are limited.**

**4- Community should be involved to promote Self-Reliance.**

**The community should be actively involved in the process of defining health problems& needs, developing and implementing solutions and evaluating programs.**

**5- Approaches to health should be related to other sectors of development.**

**Education for literacy, clean water and sanitation, improved housing, building of roads, income supplementation, All have an important impact on health.**

**Elements of Primary Health Care**

**1. Education concerning prevailing health problems and the methods of preventing and controlling them.**

**2.Promotion of food supply and proper nutrition.**

**3. Maternal and child health care, including family planning.**

**4. Adequate safe water supply and basic sanitation.**

**5.Immunization against major infectious diseases.**

**6. Prevention and control of local endemic diseases.**

**7.Appropriate treatment of common diseases and injuries.**

**8. Provision of essential basic household drugs for the community.**

**Primary Health Care Services In Iraq  
Health Education**

**1.Promotion of Proper Nutrition**

**2.Environmental Health**

**3.Maternal Health ( Ante-natal care, Deliveries, Postnatal care)**

**4.Child Health**

**5.School Health**

**6.Immunization Against Childhood Diseases.**

**7.Control of Diseases**

**A-Communicable Diseases (Tuberculosis, AIDS etc..).**

**B-Non-Communicable Diseases (Cancer, Diabetes etc ..).**

**8.Mental Health**

**9.Eye Health**

**10.Oral Health**

**11.Community Participation**

**12.Intersectoreal Cooperation**

**13.Treatment of Common Diseases & Injuries**

**.Adequate Supply of Essential Drugs14**

**Global Health and International Community Health Nursing**

**Historical Development of Term:**

**Public Health: Developed as a discipline in the mid-19th century in UK, Europe and US. Concerned more with national issues.**

**International Health: Developed during past decades, came to be more concerned with the disease (e.g. tropical disease) and conditions (war, natural disasters) of middle and low income countries.**

**Global Health: More recent in its origin and emphasizes a greater scope of health problems and solutions that transcend national boundaries requiring greater disciplinary approach.**

**Key Concepts Relation to Global Health**

**1. The determinants of health**

**2. The measurement of health status**

**3.The importance of culture to health**

**4. The global burden of disease**

**5.The key risk factors for various health problems**

**6-The organization and function of health systems**