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Nota di contenuto	TABLE OF CONTENTS; Foreword; Preface; PART I WHAT ARE HEALTH CARE VOUCHERS AND HOW DO THEY WORK?; Chapter 1 Delivering Public Subsidies in Health Care; Why Do Government Subsidies Do So Little to Help the Poor?; When Are Subsidies for Health Services Justified?; Demand-Side versus Supply-Side Subsidies; Other Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of Subsidies; Chapter 2 Benefits of Competitive Voucher Schemes for Health; How Does a Voucher Scheme Work?; What Are the Advantages of Health Vouchers?; PART II INTRODUCING A VOUCHER SCHEME; Chapter 3 Conducting Prefeasibility Studies Identifying the Health Sector Problem and the Aims of the Voucher Scheme Justifying the Use of a Voucher Scheme; Funding the Scheme; Understanding the Context in Which Subsidies Will Be Introduced; Building Partnerships; Checklist for Prefeasibility Assessment; Chapter 4 Conducting a Feasibility Assessment; Identifying Potential Impediments; Identifying Potential Advantages; Determining Whether a Voucher Scheme Is Financially Feasible; Weighing the Potential Benefits and Obstacles of a Voucher System; Checklist for Feasibility Assessment; Chapter 5 Designing a Voucher Scheme Choosing a Voucher Agency Establishing Recipient Policies; Determining Benefit Policies; Determining Price Policies; Determining Provider

Policies; Determining Reimbursement Value Policies; Designing the Vouchers and Other Materials; Transport and Communications; Distributing the Vouchers; Payment of Service Providers; Developing Information Systems; Checklist for Voucher Design; Chapter 6 Implementing a Voucher Scheme; Tendering for Service Providers; Negotiating Contracts; Contracting; Training; Piloting; Institutionalizing; Scaling Up; Chapter 7 Monitoring and Evaluating a Voucher Program

Monitoring Service Quality Monitoring Competition among Providers; Monitoring to Detect Abuse of the Voucher Scheme; Monitoring the Characteristics of Voucher Recipients and Redeemers; Monitoring and Evaluating Health Outcomes; Monitoring and Evaluating the Impact on Equity and Poverty Reduction; Monitoring and Evaluating Cost-Effectiveness; References; Index; Boxes; Box 2-1 Varying the Service Package According to the Needs of the Patient in Nicaragua; Box 3-1 Prefeasibility Work on a Voucher Scheme for Cervical Cancer Screening Box 4-1 Political Impediments to Voucher Schemes in El Salvador and Honduras Box 4-2 Are Vouchers Stigmatizing?; Box 4-3 Assessing the Feasibility of a Tuberculosis Voucher Scheme for Private Practitioners; Box 5-1 Who Runs the Voucher Program?; Box 5-2 How Can Vouchers Be Made Nontransferable?; Box 5-3 Benefit Policies: The Importance of Stating the Limits; Box 5-4 Price Policies Used by Different Voucher Schemes; Box 5-5 Choosing Service Providers that Meet Program Needs; Box 5-6 Designing the Voucher; Box 5-7 Facing the Challenges of Transport and Communications Box 5-8 Using Village Leaders to Distribute Vouchers

Sommario/riassunto

A Guide to Competitive Vouchers in Health provides a broad outline of the problems health systems face, the rationale behind government intervention particularly in the form of subsidies, and the different ways that governments and donors subsidize health care. The toolkit provides readers with an understanding of the concept of competitive voucher schemes in health; the advantages competitive voucher schemes might offer as an instrument to delivery subsidies; circumstances where competitive voucher schemes are better suited than other instruments to deliver subsidies; and steps to follow when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating a competitive voucher scheme. Aimed at raising awareness among policymakers about voucher schemes, the toolkit helps identify situations where vouchers may better achieve health objectives and provides guidance on the choices available and the decisions to be made. It highlights some of the pitfalls that voucher schemes have experienced to date, as well as the wide variation in format that a voucher scheme can take depending upon the health problems being addressed and the objectives that the policy-maker wishes to achieve.
