

# In Schematics: Argentina Performance Based Financing Plan Nacer

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Plan Nacer, the provincial social insurance program that targets uninsured pregnant women and children under six years of age, was launched in 2004 in nine provinces in Argentina with a nationwide roll-out in 2007. This performance-based financing (PBF) project is funded by the government of Argentina and the World Bank. The objective of Plan Nacer is to provide an estimated 80 services free of charge to pregnant women and mothers (up to 45 days after delivery), as well as children under the age of six who currently are not covered by health insurance.

This schematic illustrates an intergovernmental PBF scheme which transfers funds between different levels of government. Of the funds transferred to the Provincial Government, 60% are “Monthly Base Transfers” determined by the number of eligible beneficiaries enrolled in Plan Nacer. Each month, the provincial insurance unit verifies enrollment eligibility against other social insurance databases to ensure there are no duplications. This process is repeated at national level. Once completed, payments are transferred from the National Health Services Purchasing Team (NHSPT) of the Ministry of Health to the provincial health insurance unit. The Provincial Health Services Purchasing Team subsequently reimburses the providers based on a fee-for service basis (i.e., for the agreed upon 80 services). The remaining 40% of the results-based financing funds are “Complementary Transfers”, which are determined by the achievement of stated targets for ten output and outcome health indicators or tracers as calculated quarterly by the provincial insurance unit based on clinical information.

Quarterly audits are carried out in each province by independent agents contracted by the NHSPT. The eligibility of the reported population is analyzed by repeating, independently, a cross-check of the enrollee bills against the social security databases. In addition, the auditor takes a random sample of the registrations (enrollment and tracers) to verify, in the field, the existence of enrollees, their voluntary enrollment status, the existence of clinical histories, and other supporting information for the tracers. Finally, the auditors are responsible for verifying the correctness of payments made to providers. Reports of the audit findings are submitted to the NHSPT. Penalties apply for inaccurate reporting: the per capita amount is to be deducted during the next cash transfer for each ineligible beneficiary, with an additional 20% of the per capita amount deducted as a penalty.

The schematic walks through the different steps taken in the Plan Nacer PBF model in relation to invoice submission, verification and payment while highlighting the different actors involved in the process. Further descriptive information can be found in *Verification at a Glance*, by editors: Joseph F. Naimoli and Petra Vergeer at: <http://www.rbfhealth.org/rbfhealth/library/doc/309/verification-glance>

# ARGENTINA: Plan Nacer Project

