WHO recommendations for positive pregnancy and childbirth experience

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Quality of care matters

- Due to focused efforts, facility-based childbirth is increasing globally
- Coverage of essential interventions is not enough

Experience of care

Facilitators and barriers to facility-based delivery in low- and middle-income countries: a qualitative evidence synthesis

Meghan A Bohren, Erin C Hunter, Heather M Munthe-Kaas, João Paulo Souza, Joshua P Vogel, and A Metin Gülmezoglu

The prevention and elimination of disrespect and abuse during facility-based childbirth

WHO statement

Every woman has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to be treated with dignity and respect during health care.

Moving beyond essential interventions for reduction of maternal mortality (the WHO Multicountry Survey on Maternal and Newborn Health): a cross-sectional study

WHO vision

Efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage are aimed to provide all women, children and adolescents access to the health care system.

Every mother and newborn receives quality care throughout the pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal periods.

Quality of care for pregnant women and newborns—the WHO vision

Ö Tuncalp, a WM Were, b C MacLennan, b OT Oladapo, a AM Gülmezoglu, a R Bahl, b R Daelmans, b M Mathai, b L Say, a F Kristensen, a M Temmerman, a F Bustoesc


JOINT STATEMENT
Improving Quality of Maternal and Newborn Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

A Commitment to Action from Health Care Professional Associations

This International Joint Statement was reviewed and endorsed by the Council of International Neonatal Nurses (CINN), the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), and the International Pediatric Association (IPA).

The statement was developed by the United States Agency for International Development’s Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) with support from the Every Newborn: SCALE project, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS) and Save the Children’s Saving Newborn Lives project.
Conceptual framework for quality of care in maternal, newborn (and child health)
What matters to women

Women want a Positive Pregnancy Experience from ANC

As soon as you know you are pregnant, seek antenatal care for:

- Emotional support and advice
- Medical care
- Relevant and timely pregnancy information

Respectful care throughout pregnancy will help protect you and your baby's health.

Downe S et al, BJOG (2016) What matters to women a systematic scoping review to identify the processes and outcomes of antenatal care provision that are important to healthy pregnant women
WHO antenatal care guideline – Nov 2016

- Prioritizes person-centred health and well-being:
  - Reducing mortality and morbidity
  - Providing respectful care that takes into account woman’s views
  - Optimizing service delivery within health systems
What’s in a name? – contacts versus visits

Quality antenatal care will:

- Encourage women to seek skilled care at childbirth
- Reduce stillbirths, childbirth complications and newborn deaths
- Help women get care and counselling for HIV, malaria, TB and other conditions

Quality antenatal care should be available for all women to ensure a positive pregnancy experience.

Throughout pregnancy, all women should have 8 contacts with a health provider. These can happen in settings such as:

Health Facilities

Community Outreach Services

Health systems should ensure that all providers are empowered and equipped with necessary skills and supplies.
WHO intrapartum care guideline – Feb 2018

- 56 evidence-based recommendations
  - 26 new recommendations
  - 30 existing recommendations from previously published WHO guidelines

WHO intrapartum care model

ALL WOMEN HAVE A RIGHT TO A POSITIVE CHILDBIRTH EXPERIENCE THAT INCLUDES:

- Respect and dignity
- A companion of choice
- Clear communication by maternity staff
- Pain relief strategies
- Mobility in labour and birth position of choice
Effective implementation of ANC and IPC requires:

- Health systems approach and strengthening
  - Continuity of care
  - Integrated, quality service delivery
  - Improved communication with, and support for women
  - Empowered health care providers
    - Recruitment and retention of staff in rural and remote areas
    - Capacity building
  - Availability of supplies, commodities and data monitoring
Thank you!

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