

Not all family planning programs are created equally.

Family planning programs that are client-focused and center on voluntarism, informed choice, and respect are not only more effective in meeting the needs of women and girls — they're the right thing to do.

These are the building blocks for high quality, voluntary family planning services. Does your program have them all?

AGENCY AND AUTONOMY

Individuals have the ability to decide freely the number and spacing of their children. To exercise this ability, individuals must be able to choose a contraceptive method voluntarily, free of discrimination, coercion, or violence.

AVAILABILITY

Health care facilities, trained providers, and contraceptive methods are available to ensure individuals can exercise choice from a full range of contraceptive methods (barrier, short-acting, long-acting reversible, permanent, and emergency contraception). Availability of services includes follow-up and removal services for implants and IUDs.

ACCESSIBILITY

Health care facilities, trained providers, and contraceptive methods are accessible without discrimination, and without physical, economic, socio-cultural or informational barriers.

ACCEPTABILITY

Health care facilities, trained providers, and contraceptive methods are respectful of medical ethics and individual preferences, are sensitive to gender and life-cycle requirements, and respect confidentiality.

QUALITY

Individuals have access to contraceptive services and information of good quality, which are scientifically and medically appropriate. Quality of care is a multifaceted element that includes, but is not limited to: a full choice of quality contraceptive methods; clear and medically accurate information, including the risks and benefits of a range of methods; presence of equipped and technically competent providers; and client-provider interactions that respect informed choice, privacy, and confidentiality, and client preferences and needs.

EMPOWERMENT

Individuals are empowered as principal actors and agents to make decisions about their reproductive lives, and can execute these decisions through access to contraceptive information, services, and supplies.

EQUITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Individuals have the ability to access quality, comprehensive contraceptive information and services free from discrimination, coercion, and violence. Quality, accessibility, and availability of contraceptive information and services should not vary by non-medically indicated characteristics, such as age, geographic location, language, ethnicity, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, wealth, marital, or other status.

INFORMED CHOICE

Individuals have the ability to access accurate, clear, and readily understood information about a variety of contraceptive methods and their use. To exercise full, free, and informed decision-making, individuals can choose among a full range of safe, effective, and available contraceptive methods (barrier, short-acting, long-acting reversible, permanent, and emergency contraception).

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Individuals can readily access meaningful information on the design, provision, implementation and evaluation of contraceptive services, programs and policies, including government data. Individuals are entitled to seek remedies and redress at the individual and systems level when duty-bearers have not fulfilled their obligations regarding contraceptive information, services and supplies.

VOICE AND PARTICIPATION

Individuals, particularly beneficiaries, have the ability to meaningfully participate in the design, provision, implementation, and evaluation of contraceptive services, programs and policies.

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