Antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience –
Guidance for implementation of the 2016 WHO ANC model
through implementation research

Current Project Brief

Objectives and Background
As part of the continuum of care, antenatal care (ANC) is a critical time period for women, babies, families and communities. However, as a platform to provide integrated, quality services for women, it has not been utilized efficiently and effectively. On 7 November 2016, the World Health Organization released its comprehensive recommendations on routine ANC for pregnant women and adolescent girls. Using an integrated service delivery approach, the guideline aims to create a momentum for countries to re-design or re-align their health systems ‘to provide pregnant women with respectful, individualized, person-centred care at every contact, with implementation of effective clinical practices (interventions and tests), and provision of relevant and timely information, and psychosocial and emotional support, by practitioners with good clinical and interpersonal skills within a well-functioning health system’. Considering the importance of adaptation and implementation of the new ANC model within different health systems, the recommendations allow flexibility for countries to apply various options both for the content and delivery of ANC based on their specific needs and context. In relation to this vision, WHO is supporting countries to assess the current status of their ANC policies (ANC Policy-maker Toolkit), develop a decision support tool and digital registry tool for providers to implement the new ANC model and create a portal facilitating access to ANC-related evidence (ANC web portal). Next, WHO will support the updating of national guidelines and the development of implementation plans for integrated ANC package at selected sub-national levels. Furthermore, WHO is, in parallel, urgently addressing the need to develop appropriate indicators that go beyond capturing the number of visits at different levels (global, national, women-reported).

Geographic location
Burkina Faso, India (Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu), South Africa (M&E), Rwanda, Zambia

Main deliverables
As part of the initiative, countries are creating of context-specific integrated ANC packages and integrated into the investment proposal for large-scale implementation. This is being done by conducting the following activities: an ANC situational analysis, stakeholder consultations, national ANC policy update, implementation plan for new ANC model, and resource mobilization. WHO is supporting these efforts by providing and testing tools both at the policy and healthcare worker level; in addition to creating an online portal for increased access to evidence regarding ANC. In parallel, an ANC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is being developed based on a completed systematic mapping of existing indicators, a global consultation process based on WHO’s ANC recommendations, and being informed by the monitoring of implementation and indicators in South Africa (which is currently implementing the new model at scale).

Partners
Norwegian Public Health Institute, Centro de Pesquisas em Saúde Reprodutiva de Campinas (CEMICAMP), Jhpiego, South African Medical Research Council (MRC), Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé (IRSS), India Medical Research Council (IMRC), School of Public Health – University of Rwanda, Population Council Zambia, Ministries of Health of Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Zambia
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