



# Postabortion Care Strategies and Standards

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## PAC STRATEGIES

### Function

- Strategies express the approaches designed to address the health interventions needed to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with incomplete abortion and its complications.

### Characteristics

When writing country PAC strategies, the following should be assessed:

- The country context (i.e., geopolitical profile and health care delivery system);
- The magnitude of the problem (policy, advocacy, training, service delivery, management and supervision of services, and community participation); and
- The description of the corrective activities that will be undertaken based on identified gaps.

In some strategy documents, activities may flow from a strategic vision to a goal statement and then to objectives. The strategies may include guidance for PAC service sustainability, including contraceptive security, supply of necessary equipment for PAC services, monitoring and evaluation, and research. Strategies for postabortion care can be found in both RH strategies as a basic component for reproductive health or in emergency obstetrical care as an extension of basic emergency obstetrical care.

## PAC STANDARDS

Standards should articulate the expected services to be performed and what cadre of personnel will perform the services such as:

- Who will deliver which aspect(s) of PAC service (health professionals, auxiliary health personnel, non-medical providers such as community-based distributors (CBD) for FP distribution or traditional birth attendants (TBA) for prevention);
- Who is eligible for services (e.g., all women presenting with signs of incomplete abortion regardless of age);
- Which health departments will interface with PAC services;
- Who are the priority-service groups (e.g., youth);
- Where will the services be delivered and at what levels of care;
- How often and under what conditions are services to be provided; and
- How services should be managed and supervised to ensure quality.

## RECOMMENDED STRATEGY

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**Document Name:** National Postabortion Care Strategy

**Source:** Ministry of Health, Malawi

**Date:** January 2004

**Summary:** The Ministry of Health and Population would like to improve and expand postabortion care services in the country. To assist in the implementation of PAC services a specific policy statement on PAC has been developed and is incorporated into the sexual and reproductive health policy document which is under development.

The objectives of the National Postabortion Care Program are:

1. To raise awareness of the magnitude of the problem of incomplete abortion and its complications and the availability of postabortion care services (PAC);
2. Increase accessibility of PAC services in an integrated SRH program;
3. Provide quality PAC services; and
4. Establish a sustainable system for providing PAC services.

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Sustainability .....	10
Research .....	11



## RECOMMENDED STANDARDS

**Document Name:** Post-abortion Care Performance Standards for Health Providers (Kenya)

**Source** PRIME II

**Date:** April 2000

**Summary:** These PAC Performance Standards for Primary Health Providers have been developed primarily for nurses/midwives who have been trained in PAC. These standards however are not restrictive and should be employed by other health care providers who have been trained to provide PAC services. Various health care groups may use these standards, including PAC providers, supervisors, trainers, and program managers.

In 2003, the Tanzania Ministry of Health updated these standards in their “Comprehensive Post-Abortion Care: Performance Service Standards” document.

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**Document Name:** Manual of Norms, Rules, Protocols, and Technical Procedures for Management of Hemorrhage in the First Half of Pregnancy

**Source** Ministry of Health, Bolivia

**Date:** 2004

**Summary:** This consensus document includes definition of terms; responsibilities for PAC at each level of care in the health system; objectives of PAC; and protocols and procedures in the delivery of quality PAC services, including infection prevention and recordkeeping forms.

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