

# Ensuring human rights in the provision of contraceptive information and services: Guidance and recommendations

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# Background

- ❑ Unintended pregnancy, resulting from unmet need for contraception, threatens the lives and well-being of women and their families globally.
- ❑ 222 million girls and women have an unmet need for modern contraception.
- ❑ It is critical that commitment to the rights based approach to family planning is not compromised by the requirement to scale up rapidly.
  - History of coercion

# Guidelines objective

WHO developed this guideline:

- ❑ To accelerate progress towards attainment of international development goals and targets in sexual and reproductive health.
- ❑ To contribute to reducing unmet need for contraceptive information and services.
- ❑ To provide practical guidance on how to implement a rights based approach from a contraceptive programme design and management perspective.

# Guidelines process

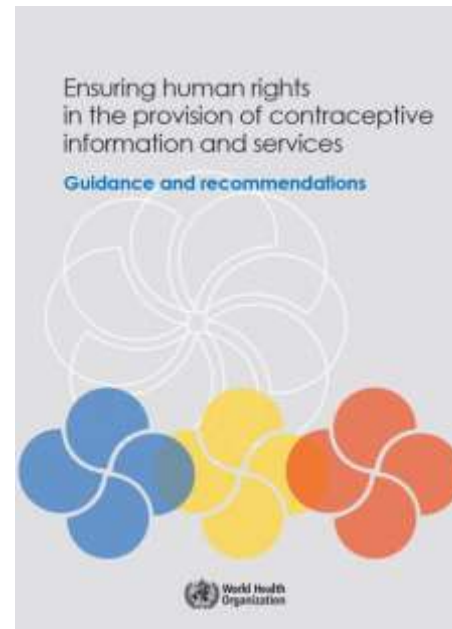
- WHO standards for guideline development were followed.
  - identification of priority questions and outcomes
  - retrieval, assessment and synthesis of evidence
  - formulation of recommendations.
- Health evidence and human rights standards systematically incorporated.
- A Guideline Development Group reviewed and revised the draft recommendations based on the evidence profiles.
  - 2 expert group meetings

# Health and human rights standards: organizing principles

- ❑ Non-discrimination
- ❑ Availability
- ❑ Accessibility
- ❑ Acceptability
- ❑ Quality
- ❑ Informed decision making
- ❑ Privacy and confidentiality
- ❑ Participation
- ❑ Accountability

# Recommendations

- ❑ A total of **24 recommendations** across the organizing principles were issued.
- ❑ The guideline will be updated regularly to include additional topics as needed.



# Selected recommendations

- ❑ Non-discrimination
  - Recommend that access to comprehensive contraceptive information and services be provided equally to everyone voluntarily, free of discrimination, coercion or violence (based on individual choice).
- ❑ Availability
  - Recommend integration of contraceptive commodities, supplies and equipment, covering a range of methods, including emergency contraception, within the essential medicine supply chain to increase availability.

# Selected recommendations

- ❑ Accessibility
  - Recommend that comprehensive contraceptive information and services be provided during antenatal and postpartum care.
- ❑ Quality
  - Recommend that quality assurance processes, including medical standards of care and client feedback, be routinely incorporated.
- ❑ Informed decision making
  - Recommend the offer of evidence-based, comprehensive contraceptive information, education and counselling to ensure informed choice.



# Recommendations

- ❑ Privacy and confidentiality
  - Recommend that privacy of individuals is respected throughout the provision of contraceptive information and services, including confidentiality of medical and other personal information.
- ❑ Participation
  - Recommend that communities have the opportunity to be meaningfully engaged in all aspects of contraceptive programme and policy design, implementation and monitoring.
- ❑ Accountability
  - Recommend that effective accountability mechanisms are in place and are accessible in the delivery of contraceptive information and services, at the individual and systems levels.