



Questions to be Addressed by Pre-Introduction Assessment

Step 1 of the Consortium's **Nine Step Program for Designing an Emergency Contraception Introduction Program** involves an assessment of user needs and service capabilities in the three areas: **Client Needs and Perspectives, Regulatory System Requirements, and Service Delivery Capabilities**. The following are questions to guide such an assessment:

Client Needs and Perspectives

- Are potential clients aware of family planning in general and EC in particular?
- When told about EC, do potential clients perceive a need for it?
- What questions do they have about it?
- Are rumors or misinformation about EC widespread?
- Which population groups report the greatest need for ECP services?
- What distribution mechanisms would be most convenient and acceptable to potential clients?
- What are user perceptions of existing services through which ECPs might be provided?
- What information channels (both formal and informal) are preferred by potential clients?

Regulatory System Requirements

- Is a post-coital contraceptive or specially packaged ECP product registered for use? If not, what requirements must be met for registration approval?
- What are the procedures for changing the labeling for existing products?
- Can medical providers prescribe combined oral contraceptives for off-label uses?
- Are pharmacists and other non-medical health professionals authorized to distribute contraceptives? If so, does that authorization also apply to ECPs?

Service Delivery Capabilities

- What is the current overall knowledge among providers of family planning methods in general and ECPs in particular?
- Do providers perceive a need for ECPs?
- What standards of care would affect ECP services?
- What are providers' capabilities?



International Consortium for Emergency Contraception

- What mechanisms exist for the distribution of regular oral contraceptives (clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, social marketing, community-based distribution, commercial distribution systems)?
- What is the capacity of these distribution channels to take on an additional closely related product?
- What is the capacity of non-family planning/reproductive health care providers (e.g., hospital emergency rooms, maternal and child health clinics, sexual assault crisis centers) to supply ECPs?
- What level of provider training would be required to ensure high-quality services?
- What training and information mechanisms are preferred by providers?
- What do providers consider as barriers to providing quality ECP services?

The assessment can be performed using a variety of information-gathering techniques, including individual in-depth interviews and/or informal group interviews with local health and regulatory authorities, clinic managers, providers, policy makers, community leaders, and potential clients; sample surveys of potential users and providers; and review of service delivery statistics. In conducting the assessment, it is important to consider including specific populations that might be potential users, such as young people, people using contraceptive methods with the potential of use failure (e.g., barrier methods and oral contraceptives), women who have infrequent and/or unplanned intercourse, women in refugee or emergency situations, and the male partners of these women.

International Consortium for Emergency Contraception

Advocates for Youth • American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) • Arab World Regional Network • Asia Pacific Network on Emergency Contraception • Association of Reproductive Health Professionals • British Pregnancy Advisory Service • Catholics for a Free Choice • Center for Reproductive Rights • Center for Research on Women and Gender, University of Illinois • Concept Foundation • Consorcio Latinoamericano de Anticoncepción de Emergencia (CLAE) • CONRAD • DKT International • East Europe, NIS and Balkan Region • ECAfrique • EngenderHealth • Family Care International • Family Health International • Guttmacher Institute • Gynuity Health Projects • Ibis Reproductive Health • Institute for Reproductive Health • International Planned Parenthood Federation • International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region • International Women's Health Coalition • Ipas • JSI Research & Training Center for Women's Health • Management Sciences for Health • Margaret Sanger Institute • Marie Stopes International • Medical Women's International Association • Meridian Development Foundation • Pacific Institute for Women's Health • Partnership for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) • Pathfinder International • Planned Parenthood Federation of America - International • Population Action International • Population Council • Population Services International • PROSALUD INTER-AMERICANA • WHO, Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction • Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

www.cccinfo.org - info@cccinfo.org