

# Maternal Health Care: Policies, Technical Standards and Service Accessibility in Eight Countries in the Western Pacific Region





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Policies, Technical Standards  
and Service Accessibility in Eight Countries  
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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ANC</b>	antenatal care
<b>ART</b>	antiretroviral therapy
<b>AVD</b>	assisted vaginal delivery
<b>BEmONC</b>	basic emergency obstetric and newborn care
<b>CEmONC</b>	comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care
<b>CHW</b>	community health worker
<b>CMA</b>	Chinese Medical Association
<b>CPR</b>	contraceptive prevalence rate of modern methods
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Survey
<b>EML</b>	Essential Medicines List
<b>EmONC</b>	emergency obstetric and newborn care
<b>FHR</b>	fetal heart rate
<b>IFA</b>	iron and folic acid
<b>IM</b>	intramuscular
<b>IUD</b>	intrauterine device
<b>IV</b>	intravenous
<b>LAM</b>	lactational amenorrhoea method
<b>LSIS</b>	Lao Social Indicator Survey
<b>MCH</b>	maternal and child health
<b>MCPC</b>	Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth: A Guide for Midwives and Doctors
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MDSR</b>	maternal death surveillance and response
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>MMEIG</b>	Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group
<b>MMR</b>	maternal mortality ratio
<b>MVA</b>	manual vacuum aspiration
<b>NGO</b>	nongovernmental organization
<b>NMR</b>	neonatal mortality rate
<b>PNC</b>	postnatal care
<b>PPH</b>	postpartum haemorrhage
<b>SBA</b>	skilled birth attendant
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TFR</b>	total fertility rate
<b>UHC</b>	universal health coverage
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# FOREWORD

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Member States share a vision: ensuring health and well-being through universal access to quality maternal and newborn health-care services. With more women receiving antenatal and perinatal care at health facilities in the Western Pacific Region, it is time to focus more on quality of care. Many instances of death and morbidity can be prevented by evidence-based interventions at health facilities.

In its mandate to provide normative guidance to Member States, WHO has issued various evidence-based guidelines and recommendations on maternal health care. This report shows the dissemination and implementation status of these guidelines and recommendations in eight Member States that account for 96% of maternal deaths and 97% of neonatal deaths in the Region.

The experiences of these Member States point to a need to ensure that guidelines and protocols are informed by the most recent WHO recommendations and that protocols are fully applied in practice.

To reach the ambitious targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, WHO stands ready to work even harder with Member States to bring high-quality maternal care to all women in every part of the Region.

The findings of this report suggest that national guidelines and protocols often do not include the more recent WHO recommendations. Where the degree of congruity with WHO guidelines is high, the protocols are often not fully applied in practice.



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