A Commodity Security Framework for Maternal Health

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Development of the MHCS framework

In 2014, the UNCoLSC developed a maternal health commodity security framework and white paper to address barriers to access and use of magnesium sulfate, misoprostol, and oxytocin.

Countries can use the MHCS framework to:

• identify weaknesses or gaps at various levels and functions of the health system and develop strategies to address them

• identify specific components of health system to strengthen, such as the organization, service delivery capacity, infrastructure, staffing, and resources that support equitable access to and rational use of key MH medicines

• monitor progress toward attaining MH commodity security and to adapt or adopt the necessary changes for improvement
Guiding principles of the framework

• Commodities must be accessible, available, and affordable throughout the continuum of care: (antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum periods)

• Women’s and their healthcare providers’ equitable access to and rational use of quality MH commodities are enabled by intersectoral collaboration and integrated service delivery.

• Support rational use of the three key MH commodities (as defined by the UNCoLSC), so they are prescribed, dispensed, or sold appropriately and patients use them correctly (WHO 2012).

Note: Conceptualization of MHCS framework is simplified and does not address many other commodities required for safe motherhood (work of the MHTRT focused on the three MH commodities identified as key).
  • While these three commodities are necessary to improve MH outcomes, they are not sufficient to manage all causes of poor MH and mortality.
Defining Commodity Security

- Commodity security (CS) is broadly defined as the ability to choose, obtain, and use quality health commodities when and where they are needed.

- MH CS focuses on MH commodities and the unique characteristics of these specific maternal health commodities.

- MH category-specific CS allows policymakers and implementers to better understand, evaluate, and design solutions based on the unique characteristics of MH commodities.
MHCS Framework

Women and all members of health systems have equitable access to high quality essential MH commodities.