

# Quality of Maternal Health Supplies Today

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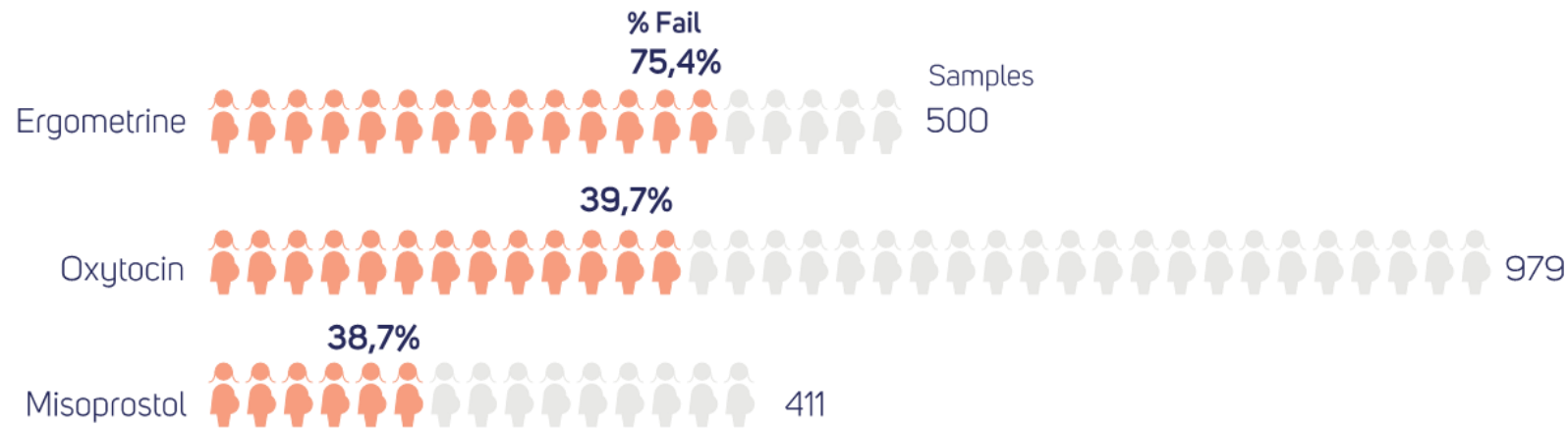
Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health & Research

World Health Organization

# Quality of uterotonics



## Articles published until April 2019



## Articles published between April 2019 - Jan 2023



**Oxytocin:** 16-67% substandard prod. (4 studies/204 samples)

**Misoprostol:** 20-40% substandard prod. (3 studies/135 samples)

**Ergometrine:** no new studies reported

- The quality of uterotonics is still a problem in LMICs
- New studies are methodologically of better quality.
- Anglophone *and* Francophone African countries reported to have SF uterotonics

# WHO PMS oxytocin & misoprostol - West Africa

Product	Côte d'Ivoire	Senegal
Misoprostol 	4% (dissolution)	41% (dissolution)
Oxytocin 	54% (related subst.)	5% (assay)



196 samples  
130 health facilities  
2 countries  
Aug-Dec 2021

*Substandard samples: public and private sector, all levels of the supply chain.*

*Côte d'Ivoire: most of the products were not registered.*

*Oxytocin stored in fridges without proper Temp. monitoring.*

*SF products were recalled in both countries.*

Quantitative studies

Qualitative studies

**No. studies**

3 (7065 HCP)

2 (292 HCP)

**Countries**

Nigeria (Lagos); Nigeria (National); Malawi

Ghana; India-Ethiopia-Myanmar

**Oxytocin perception**

Lagos state: 12.6% oxytocin ineffective.

Ghana: perceived oxytocin to be more reliable due to false belief that it is heat-stable.

Nigeria: 21.3% oxytocin poor quality.

India, Ethiopia: OK

Malawi: 8.2% oxytocin ineffective.

Myanmar: oxytocin ineffective.

**Misoprostol perception**

Malawi: 3.3% misoprostol ineffective.

No report

**Action taken**

Nigeria: change med. or double dose

Increased dose + add. uterotonics

**Perception reported**

HCP do not administratively report, or document suspected poor quality oxytocin or misoprostol.

# Key messages

- The quality of uterotonics available in LMICs is still a concern.
- The problem exists in anglophone and in francophone countries.
- A proportion of HCPs from LMICs perceive oxytocin to be of low- quality. However, there is very limited evidence on their perceptions about misoprostol.
- Many HCPs do not report suspected low-quality uterotonics but change to another medicine or increase the dose of that uterotonic.
- National regulatory authorities do not have enough resources to do adequate surveillance

Thank you