Essential Medicines for Maternal Health: Ensuring Equitable Access for All

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THREE ESSENTIAL MEDICINES for MATERNAL HEALTH

Access to safe, effective medicines can prevent or treat leading causes of maternal death:

- Oxytocin
- Misoprostol
- Magnesium Sulfate
KEY BARRIERS TO ACCESS
Availability, Equity, Quality and Choice

- **Insufficient quantities** in the public health sector (lack of data, policy and funding challenges)

- **Poor-quality products** available and used in the public and private sector (lack of regulation, inadequate transport and storage, improper packaging)

- **Inefficiencies in the health system** (e.g. logistics information system, weak infrastructure to reach communities)

- **Lack of information and clear guidance** to support correct use by health providers and demand from women and families
Maternal Health Supplies = Reproductive Health Supplies
MH SUPPLIES = RH SUPPLIES

- National systems are moving toward integrated supply chains
- Wide range of RHS tools and resources adapted for MHS
- Lessons from RHS can inform MHS
MH SUPPLIES = RH SUPPLIES

National systems are moving toward integrated logistics and supply chains

- Ethiopia
- Nicaragua
- Nepal
Wide range of RHS tools and resources adapted for MHS

- **AccessRH**: online procurement and information platform

- **Reproductive Health Interchange**: assist in procurement planning and monitoring

- **SPARHCS** for maternal health
Lessons from increasing access to RHS can inform MHS:

- **Budget advocacy**
- **Contraceptive security committees**
- **Distribution through community health workers**
MH SUPPLIES = RH SUPPLIES

Lessons from increasing access to RHS can inform MHS (cont.):

• Procurement of quality products

• Training and ongoing support for health providers

• Generating demand among women and communities
PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR INCREASING ACCESS

- Develop evidence-based policies and ensure financial investment
- Procure high-quality medicines and maintain quality
- Strengthen information and supply chain systems
- Improve providers’ knowledge and skills
To access the briefs visit:

www.rhsupplies.org
www.familycareintl.org