



Following are some common questions raised by members of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and its Working Groups about the Caucus on New and Underused Reproductive Health Technologies, its goals, organization, and functions. We welcome additional questions for this FAQ as issues arise.

What is the Caucus on New and Underused Reproductive Health Technologies?

The Caucus on New and Underused Reproductive Health Technologies (Caucus) is a community of practice whose membership cuts across the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition's three Working Groups.

The Caucus functions as an intermediary within the Coalition—Caucus members belong to both the Caucus and at least one of the Coalition's Working Groups. This dual membership allows Caucus members to encourage Working Group discussions and activities that align with the Caucus' goal and purpose.

The *goal* of the Caucus is to help improve clients' choice of available reproductive health technologies. The *purpose* of the group is to contribute to country-level efforts to achieve MDG 5, by both supporting work to achieve universal access to reproductive health services and products, and by facilitating their use to reduce both unwanted pregnancy and maternal mortality and morbidity. The Caucus aims to expand the supply of new and underused technologies through the public, private, and social marketing sectors to improve equity and meet the needs of lower-income population segments. Members of the group are undertaking the following *approaches* toward meeting this goal:

- Broaden the discussion within the Coalition of technologies that meet users' needs and have desirable effects on reproductive health, but are not well integrated into the public or commercial sectors globally or in large regional markets.
- Collaborate with the Working Groups to identify specific initiatives that contribute to improved choice at the national level through improved supply.

What is meant by “new” and “underused”?

For the Caucus, the terms *new* and *underused* are very specific to the overall Coalition, a country setting, and the marketplace for reproductive health supplies.

- *New* reproductive health technologies are those that are new to a global or country market, and are currently available for procurement.

- *Underused* reproductive health technologies are those that are not routinely available in the public, private, or social marketing sectors, as well as those technologies not routinely procured by the major procurers. In country settings, underused technologies are those that are not present in that country's reproductive health program, despite their presence in a comparable country's reproductive health program.

The technologies discussed by the Caucus are those that can expand choice in a reproductive health and family planning program, add value to the method mix, and respond to the needs of the clients, which also present a solid evidence base for quality and efficacy.

How does the Caucus function?

Similar to the Coalition's Working Groups, the Caucus is made up of Coalition members who are interested in and lead the efforts to achieve its goal. However, unlike the Coalition's Working Groups, the Caucus does not have a workplan or workstreams. Instead, Caucus members aim to broaden the scope of the Working Groups to include workstreams that focus on improved choice through improved supply. Caucus members then work with other Working Group members to carry forward the work of relevant workstreams.

While all Caucus members are also Working Group members, the Caucus has official Working Group Liaisons who ensure the Caucus has a presence at all Working Group meetings.

Does the Caucus have its own activities outside of the Working Groups?

The Caucus implements discrete activities in addition to its efforts within the Working Groups. The most notable activity is the annual production of technical Product Briefs on a series of technologies identified as new or underused within the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition. The Product Briefs can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.path.org/publications/detail.php?i=1726>

How do I learn more about the Caucus?

To learn more about the Caucus, please visit our webpage where you can read about the Caucus' background and view minutes from recent meetings: <http://www.rhsupplies.org/working-groups/caucus-on-newunderused-rh-technologies.html>

You can also contact Bonnie Keith for more information: bkeith@path.org.