

12.4. RECOMMENDATION:

Should NURSES insert and remove contraceptive implants?

Problem: Poor access to contraception
Option: Nurses inserting and removing contraceptive implants
Comparison: Care delivered by other cadres or no care
Setting: Community/primary health care settings in LMICs with poor access to health professionals

Recommendation	<i>We recommend against the option</i>	<i>We suggest considering the option with targeted monitoring and evaluation</i>	<i>We recommend the option</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
We recommend the use of nurses to insert and remove contraceptive implants.			

Justification There is insufficient evidence on the effectiveness of this intervention, and acceptability may vary. However, there is evidence to suggest that nurses can effectively deliver other similar interventions. In addition, this intervention may be a cost-effective and feasible approach to contraception and may also reduce inequalities by extending care to underserved populations.

Implementation considerations The following should be considered when using nurses to insert and remove contraceptive implants:

- The relevant professional bodies should be involved in the planning and implementation of the intervention to ensure acceptability among affected health workers
- The distribution of roles and responsibilities between nurses and other health workers needs to be made clear, including through regulations and job descriptions
- Changes in regulations may be necessary to support any changes in nurses' scope of practice
- Implementation needs to be in the context of a comprehensive remuneration scheme, in which salaries or incentives reflect any changes in scope of practice. Giving incentives for certain tasks but not for others may negatively affect the work that is carried out
- Referral systems need to function well, i.e. financial, logistical (e.g. transport) and relational barriers need to be addressed. Specifically, local health systems need to be strengthened to improve quality of care at the first referral facility
- Supplies of drugs and other commodities need to be secure
- Responsibility for supervision needs to be clear and supervision needs to be regular and supportive
- Because of the sensitivity of sexual and contraceptive issues, planners should consider whether health workers promoting or delivering reproductive health services to women should also be women. It may also be an advantage to ensure that relevant training of female health workers is carried out by females
- Nurses and their supervisors need to receive appropriate initial and ongoing training, including in communicating with recipients and in side effects of different contraceptive methods. Training needs to reinforce that auxiliary nurses should avoid introducing their own criteria for determining who should receive contraception
- Nurses need to be trained in confidentiality issues and recipients need to be made aware that their interactions with health workers regarding contraception are confidential.

Monitoring and evaluation

Research priorities