Respectful Maternity Care: Changing for the better

Colloquium MNH Beyond 2015: Theme 1-Session 2
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Background

- Certainly not a new problem
- Widely acknowledged, but not widely addressed until recently
- Pioneering work in Latin America called out “obstetric violence” as a form of gender-based violence

Lancet, 2002
Seminal work in LAC: Focus on human rights and legislative approaches

- Ley Orgánica sobre el Derecho de las Mujeres a una Vida Libre de Violencia (Venezuela 2007)
- Ley de Acceso a una Vida Libre de Violencia para las Mujeres en Estados de México (Durango 2007; Veracruz 2008; Chiapas 2009; Guanajuato 2010)
Landscape Review: Bowser & Hill 2010
Exploring Evidence for D&A in Facility-Based Childbirth

Figure 1. Contributors to the impact of Disrespect and Abuse in Childbirth (D&A) on Skilled Care Utilization (Bowser and Hill 2010).
RMC: Changing for the better

If you want to go fast, go alone.

If you want to go far, go together.
- African proverb
Approaches to RMC: Everybody Play Your Part
Global RMC Council Established 2010

- Multi-sector
- Multi-level
- Multi-stakeholder

Specific subcommittees for joint planning on:
- Advocacy
- Evidence-Based Approaches to RMC
Respectful Maternity Care: The Universal Rights of Childbearing Women

- Building entitlement
- Asserting the right to RMC
- Showing how RMC fits within human rights frameworks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catégories de manque de respect et de mauvais traitements</th>
<th>Droit correspondant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Violence physique</td>
<td>Le droit de conserver son intégrité et de ne pas être victime de mauvais traitements</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Soins administrés sans consentement</td>
<td>Le droit d'être informée adéquatement, d'exprimer son consentement ou son refus libre et éclairé et d'exiger le respect de ses choix et de ses préférences, y compris en ce qui concerne la présence auprès d'elle d'accompagnant(e)s (famille, amis, deute)</td>
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<td>3. Non-confidentialité des soins</td>
<td>Confidentialité, vie privée et intimité</td>
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<td>4. Soins ne respectant pas la dignité (la violence verbale comprise)</td>
<td>Dignité, respect</td>
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<td>5. Discrimination fondée sur des attributs spécifiques</td>
<td>Égalité, absence de discrimination, soins équitables</td>
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<td>6. Abandon, refus de soins (par le personnel)</td>
<td>Le droit de recevoir des soins au moment opportun et de jouir du meilleur état de santé possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Détention dans les centres</td>
<td>Liberté, autonomie, auto-détermination et ne pas être forcée à quoi que ce soit</td>
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Raising awareness about disrespect & abuse of childbearing women in maternity care facilities around the world
Examples:
RMC Research (43 new articles since 2010)
Examples:
Legal Redress

An investigation of maternal deaths following public protests in a tribal district of Madhya Pradesh, central India

Brazilian Government Gives Monetary Reparations As Part of Historic United Nations Maternal Death Case

03.25.14 - (PRESS RELEASE) In a ceremony today, the Brazilian government gave monetary reparations to Maria Lourdes da Silva Pimentel, the mother of Alyne—an Afro-Brazilian woman who did not receive immediate medical attention for her pregnancy complications and later died. The reparations are part of the first United Nations ruling on human rights violations in her maternal death case.
Examples: Policy

The prevention and elimination of disrespect and abuse during facility-based childbirth

WHO statement

Every woman has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to dignified, respectful health care.

Incorporate respectful maternity care in national legislation and healthcare policy

WRA advocacy led to the inclusion of respectful maternity care language in NEPAL’S SAFE MOTHERHOOD BILL. WRA also worked with the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria to adopt the RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE CHARTER as a standard of practice.
Examples: Client-level approaches

MATERNITY OPEN DAYS: CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CHILDBIRTH

Mobilize communities to demand respectful maternity care
In Nigeria, WRA facilitated the launch of a NEW HOTLINE FOR CITIZENS in Kwara State to report incidents of disrespect and abuse at local health facilities.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION: RESOLVING INCIDENTS OF DISRESPECT AND ABUSE
Examples: Provider-level approaches

FIGO GUIDELINES

Mother—baby friendly birthing facilities


Support healthcare providers to deliver respectful maternity care

In Kenya, the Population Council is conducting values clarification, attitude transformation training, and counseling sessions with healthcare providers to help them reflect on how they work and cope with working in under-resourced facilities.

DEBRIEFING SESSIONS: CARING FOR THE CARERS
Thank you!

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