

POST-ABORTION CARE-FRIENDLY HEALTH FACILITY

As health care professionals providing quality and ethical care to post-abortion care patients, it is our duty:

1) To provide immediate emergency treatment. Health care providers are required by law to stabilize post-abortion care patients and remove all uterine residue in a humane, nonjudgmental and compassionate manner (RA 8344, RA 9710, RA 10354, RA 2382, DOH MNCHN Strategy Manual of Operations).

We may face liability for not performing emergency care as required by law and the Supreme Court decision on the RH Law to provide emergency care;

2) To provide the following medical treatment:

- (a) Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) whenever possible since MVA use results in faster recuperation period and the patient may opt to use little or no anesthesia;
- (b) Dilation and Curettage (D&C) if MVA is not available or Dilation and Evacuation, as appropriate;
- (c) Use of oxytocic drugs, anti-biotics and other medicines, as appropriate;

3) To provide bedside information on post-abortion contraceptives and immediate access to contraceptives since pregnancy within six months after an abortion is not optimum;

4) To maintain strict confidentiality and NOT to report the patient to law enforcement authorities since such breach of ethical duties results in women dying from post-abortion complications when they delay or forego access to medical care.

Health providers are NOT required by law to report women who induce abortion. PD 169 does not apply because this covers serious (medical attention for over thirty days) or less serious physical injuries (medical attention for ten to thirty days) under the Articles 262-265 of the Revised Penal Code referring to injuries inflicted by another person to the patient. Also, recuperation period for MVA is about three hours while D & C can be overnight or at most three days;

5) To refer the women for post-abortion care counseling. They can be referred to the facility's trained social workers, women's groups, counseling centers for women, gender offices, centers providing reproductive health services and safe abortion advocacy groups such as the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN);

6) Inform the patients that medical services reimbursement for MVA and D&C can be availed through PhilHealth

#Post-Abortion Care Patient Rights

#Save Women's Lives

#Right to Health



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PHILIPPINE SAFE ABORTION ADVOCACY NETWORK

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