

7 THINGS EVERY MIDWIFE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE 7th ESSENTIAL COMPETENCY: ABORTION CARE

- 1 ICM designated abortion-related care as the 7th essential competency for basic midwifery practice.
- 2 Midwives can provide abortion as safely as doctors and are permitted by law to provide abortion in many countries, including the United States, Nepal, Ghana, and Ethiopia.
- 3 Safe abortion is very safe—a woman’s risk of death in childbirth is 25 times greater than from safe abortion [2, 3].
- 4 Death and disability from unsafe abortion are almost completely preventable. By providing safe abortion, tens of thousands of women’s lives could be saved each year [4].
- 5 Most countries allow legal abortion for at least some indications, but women may not be able to access it because they and their health-care providers don’t understand the law. Midwives may advocate for safe abortion by understanding the law [5].
- 6 Safe abortion using manual vacuum aspiration or medications can be provided in very low-resource settings [6].
- 7 Almost all methods of contraception may be started immediately after an uncomplicated abortion [7]. Giving contraception at the time of abortion is an opportunity to prevent future unintended pregnancy and protect the health of women.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit the Ipas booth #14 and attend the Ipas panel: *Putting the 7th Essential Competency into Practice*—in Congress Hall on Thursday, 5 June at 8:30–10:00.

1. Renner, R.M., D. Brahmi, and N. Kapp. 2013. *Who can provide effective and safe termination of pregnancy care? A systematic review*. BJOG, 2013. 120(1): p. 23–31.
2. Centers for Disease Control. 2013. *Pregnancy mortality surveillance system*. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MaternalInfantHealth/PMSS.html>.
3. Pazol, K., et al. 2009. *Abortion Surveillance—United States*. MMWR, 2012. 61: p. 1–44.
4. World Health Organization. 2010. *Unsafe abortion: global and regional estimates of the incidence of unsafe abortion and associated mortality in 2008*. 6th ed., Geneva: World Health Organization.
5. Center for Reproductive Rights. 2013. *The world’s abortion laws*. Available from: www.worldabortionlaws.com.
6. Ipas. 2013. *Woman-Centered, Comprehensive Abortion Care: Reference Manual*. 2nd ed, ed. K. Turner, A. Huber, and J. Soliman. Chapel Hill, NC: Ipas.
7. World Health Organization. 2009. *Medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use*, ed. World Health Organization. Geneva: Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization.

Want to learn more about Ipas and the 7th Competency?

STOP BY OUR BOOTH (#14)!

WE WILL HAVE:

- Resources to help you put the 7th essential competency into practice
- Daily raffle drawings
- Opportunities to tell your story of support for abortion care in our “video diary”
- Items to show your support for reproductive rights!

Ipas awarded sponsorship to attend ICM 2014 to six young midwives who entered our essay contest earlier this year. Each day Mon–Wed at 1:30PM, young midwife contest winners will be at the booth to share why they think abortion care is an important part of midwifery.

Come to the Ipas Panel: **“Putting the 7th Essential Competency into Practice: Success Stories from Three Regions”** in Congress Hall on Thursday, 5 June at 8:30–10:00.

In 2010, ICM expanded the *Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice* to encompass an important element in the continuum of care for women’s reproductive health—abortion-related care. This session will provide an update on global evidence supporting safe provision of abortion-related care by midwives and will examine ways that midwives have worked successfully to provide high-quality care to their clients, regardless of the sociocultural and legal settings in their countries.

MODERATOR: JEMIMA DENNIS-ANTWI, President, Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives, MNCH/Midwives advocate and consultant, former ICM Regional Advisor for Anglophone Africa

PRESENTATIONS:

DR. KHAGESHWOR GELAL, Director, National Health Training Centre, Nepal **“Task-sharing in midwifery to reduce maternal deaths in Nepal”**

ASTER BERHE, UNFPA Country Midwife Advisor, Ethiopia **“Ethiopia’s success in provision of safe abortion: The role of midwives”**

MARY FJERSTAD, Director of Medical Affairs and Pharmacovigilance, WomanCare Global **“The evolving role of midwives in abortion care in the Americas”**



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