



CAC

CONNECT

newsletter



CAC Connect wishes this new year all your dreams turn into reality and all your efforts into great achievements.

DID YOU KNOW?

The POCSO Act and the MTP Act: Information for CAC Providers

Introduction

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 governs induced abortion service delivery in India. It very clearly defines by who, where, and when abortion services may be provided. The Government of India enacted the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to prevent and address child sexual abuse. These Acts overlap where the POCSO Act requires medical providers to report sexual abuse among minors and the MTP Act allows registered providers to terminate pregnancies resulting from rape. The intersection between the MTP Act and the POCSO Act creates confusion, delays, and sometimes denial of abortion services for young girls. This excerpt provides clarity about provisions of the two Acts and the role of medical practitioners.

Does a provider have a legal duty to inform the authorities if a minor girl is pregnant?

The POCSO Act requires anyone who knows that a sexual offence has been committed to report the case to the appropriate authorities (the local police or special juvenile police unit or child protection committee) or to the relevant person in the organization who could report the pregnancy to the appropriate authorities (the Chief Medical Officer, for example). Anyone who knowingly fails to make this report can be punished with up to six months in prison and a fine.

However, the provider does not need to wait till the authorities take action and may proceed with the termination of pregnancy in line with the provisions of the MTP Act after maintaining complete and detailed records of the case.

Continued on page 2

CONTACT US

Newsletter Contest N-21

Identify this personality!

Born on 9 March 1956, an Indian diplomat, politician, and writer who has been known mostly for having worked as an Indian diplomat at the United Nations. In 2006, he was the official candidate of India for the office of the United Nations Secretary-General, and came second out of seven official candidates in the race. He served as the UN Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information between June 2002 and February 2007, during the term of Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He is an author, journalist, and fellow of the USC Center on Public Diplomacy.



Send in your answer by: WhatsApp/SMS: 0.9013380510 or E-mail: helpdesk@cacconnect.in
(Please mention your full name and state)

WINNERS OF CONTEST N-20



Dr. Suyash Singhai
Madhya Pradesh



Dr. Simi Saha
Bihar



Dr. Rampal Sunvania
Madhya Pradesh

Solution to Contest N-20: Norman Borlaug

A big thank you to all our members who participated in the contest!

What conduct is sufficient to satisfy a provider's duty to report under the POCSO Act while offering MTP services to a minor?

Providing a medico-legal certificate to the authorities is sufficient to comply with the reporting requirements of the POCSO Act.

Does a medical provider have to wait for any medico-legal procedure before performing the abortion?

No. POCSO Rules state that “no medical practitioner, hospital or other medical facility center rendering emergency medical care to a child shall demand any legal or magisterial requisition or other documentation as a pre-requisite to rendering” emergency medical care.

Similarly, the 2013 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Guidelines and Protocols: Medico-Legal Care for Survivors/Victims of Sexual Violence state:

“Providing treatment and necessary medical investigations is the prime responsibility of the examining doctor” and that “admission, evidence collection or filing a police complaint is not mandatory for providing treatment.”

This means that providers can even inform the authorities about the pregnant minor after performing the abortion.

Rape is a legal ground for terminating a pregnancy under Section 3 of the MTP Act and given the 20-week limit in the Act, it is important to provide medical care at the earliest while legal proceeding can continue simultaneously.

Does the medical provider have a legal obligation to preserve the products of conception for abortion services for minor girls?

Section 201 of the Indian Penal Code prohibits causing “any evidence of the commission” of an offence to disappear with the intention of screening the offender from legal punishment. Crucially, this includes an important intent component. It would be considered a violation only if a provider destroys evidence with the intent to protect the accused from legal action. Therefore, providers who dispose of the products of conception (PoC) for a good faith reason (inadequate preservation facilities, or following standard operating procedures, for example), should be shielded from prosecution. However, since a minor girl who is pregnant is considered a rape victim under the law, the products of conception might be evidence of an offence that the medical provider must preserve under Section 201 if possible.

Conclusion

The MTP Act guarantees protection for providers who act in good faith. This recognizes that above all else, it is imperative that girls and women receive the highest standard of medical care available. Accordingly, all providers should fulfil their reporting requirements and legal obligations under the MTP Act and the POCSO Act after ensuring essential services.

A provider is not obligated to file an FIR or to conduct an investigation; the provider's duty is only to inform the authorities when providing safe abortion service under the MTP Act.

This article is an excerpt from the 'Policy Brief: The POCSO Act and the MTP Act: Key Information for Medical Providers' developed by IDF. The Policy Brief is available on our website under 'Resources'. [Ipasdevelopmentfoundation.org>resources](http://Ipasdevelopmentfoundation.org/resources)

WHAT'S NEW?

Return to Fertility after abortion depends on the method of termination of pregnancy. The Family Planning Division has recently revised the Post Abortion Family Planning technical update.

Return to Fertility after Abortion		
Time of Abortion	Method of Management for Abortion	Review of Return to Fertility
First-trimester Abortion	After vacuum aspiration	Woman may ovulate within 10 days of an abortion (Boyd et al. 1972) and can become pregnant if she resumes sexual intercourse without using any family planning method (Wolf et al. 1994)
	After medical abortion with mifepristone and misoprostol	On an average, a woman will ovulate within 20 days of a medical abortion with mifepristone and misoprostol, but can ovulate as early as in 8 days (Schreiber, Sober, Ratcliffe & Creinin, 2011)
Second-trimester Abortion	After dilatation and evacuation	Within 4 weeks after a second-trimester abortion or miscarriage

PROVIDERS / SPEAK

Perspective from Rajasthan

I am Dr. Pushpendra Kumar Nain, Medical Officer In Charge at PHC (Primary Health Center) Jangloo, (Nakha) Bikaner. Here I am sharing my experience of CAC (Comprehensive Abortion Care) training attended at RDBP Jaipuria Hospital, Jaipur. I learnt about a new technique called MVA (Manual Vacuum Aspiration). As a doctor I felt pleased to receive support from CAC trainers and clients visiting Jaipuria Hospital.

The first thing to know is what is MVA

MVA is a latest technology which uses aspiration to remove uterine contents through the cervix. It can be used as a method of induced abortion, a therapeutic procedure used after miscarriage or a procedure to obtain a sample for endometrial biopsy.

In layman's language, MVA is the easiest way of conducting abortions as it is less time-consuming, cost-effective, painless, convenient, and the most reliable procedure for safe abortion.

I serve at a rural facility where people are less educated and lack awareness regarding MTP, pills or procedures for the termination of unwanted pregnancy. People are shy about discussing this with family or even doctors and they land up practicing unsafe abortion practices, leading to maternal mortality by excessive bleeding, retained products of conception (PoC) or septicemia. This is the most important reason for using MVA technique for safe abortion or termination of pregnancy.

With IDF's team support, I gained more information about MVA and also my PHC got MVA promotional banners and hoardings displayed, so we doctors can spread knowledge and create awareness about this beneficiary technique among the people. With this note, I urge people to spread every single information that is meant for their benefit.



Dr. Pushpendra Kumar Nain
Rajasthan

DO YOU / KNOW!

History of International Women's Day

Introduction

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labor movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe.

Chronology

1909 The first National Woman's Day was observed in the United States on 28 February. The Socialist Party of America designated this day in honor of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, where women protested against working conditions.

1910 The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, international in character, to honor the movement for women's rights and to build support for achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish Parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.

1913-14 International Women's Day also became a mechanism for protesting World War I. As part of the peace movement, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with other activists.

1917 Against the backdrop of the war, women in Russia again chose to protest and strike for "Bread and Peace" on the last Sunday in February (which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar).

1975 During International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March.

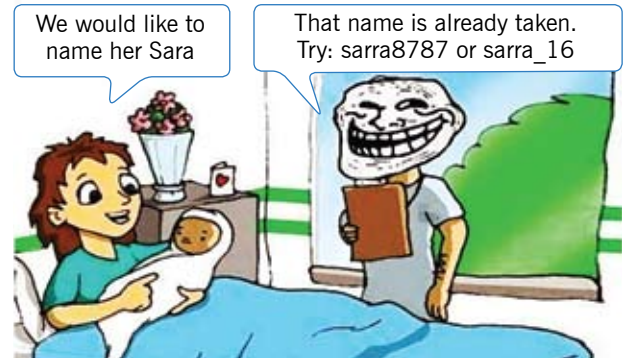
WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Locate the given words in the grid, running in one of eight possible directions: horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

R	H	F	C	U	R	T	S	E	Y	E	D	M	I	N	D
E	H	T	D	A	E	R	B	S	R	I	A	H	L	R	A
H	R	P	S	Y	C	H	I	C	A	L	L	Y	E	R	M
T	P	R	E	O	R	D	A	I	N	I	N	G	M	U	U
I	T	L	V	N	E	T	Z	P	O	O	E	Z	M	I	S
Z	B	I	I	S	E	A	S	O	I	I	K	B	U	N	K
R	E	C	T	A	T	A	R	T	S	B	U	S	P	Q	E
U	P	A	C	L	B	S	A	E	I	I	D	H	U	U	L
V	T	H	A	E	E	L	B	N	V	R	O	A	R	I	L
E	E	S	R	V	L	D	E	T	H	Z	S	B	G	S	U
R	E	O	E	E	O	W	M	I	L	I	E	U	E	I	N
S	D	E	P	M	U	N	E	A	O	G	D	S	S	T	G
A	R	P	Y	L	S	S	E	L	E	V	R	E	N	O	E
U	A	Z	H	E	K	Y	T	T	B	W	H	E	A	R	S

ABUSE	ADORE	APPELLATION	ATLASES
BEGET	BESIEGER	BLEW	BUNK
CURTSEYED	ESTATE	HAIRSBREADTH	HEARS
HIDE	HYPERACTIVES	INQUISITOR	KUDOS
LIABLE	MILIEU	MIND	MUSKELLUNGES
NERVELESSLY	NOVA	POTENTIAL	PREORDAINING
PSYCHICALLY	PUMMEL	RECTA	REEVES
RUIN	STIR	SUBSTRATA	TEACHER
TITLED	TYKE	UMPED	URGES
VISIONARY	ZITHER		

Internet Addiction Disorder!



WATCH OUT FOR



Days

24 January
National Girl Child Day

4 February
World Cancer Day

8 March
International Women's Day

22 March
World Water Day

24 March
World Tuberculosis Day

Events

61st All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AICOG) 2018

Date: January 17 – 21, 2018
Venue: Bhubaneshwar, Odisha

Women's Day Photo Contest: Beyond the Doors



We are looking for the most interesting photographs of the women in your family in a powerful role/activity outside home. Send us the photo by: Whatsapp/SMS: 0.9013380510 (or) E-mail: helpdesk@cacconnect.in

The three best entries will win prizes!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Share with Us!

This is your newsletter and we want to feature your thoughts and experiences on CAC and related reproductive health issues.