

Title: Clinical Services for Sterilized Patients	Policy Number 2.8
Approved By: Joe Holliday MD, MPH	Program Area: Family Planning
Effective Date: 1970	Revised Date: 1/13/11

**Purpose Statement of Policy:**

To provide clinical guidance to the continuity of care for clients who have been permanently sterilized seeking care in the family planning clinics provided by Title X.

**Definition:**

Defined within the Clinical Services for Sterilized Patients policies the following areas must be addressed:

- In order to provide continuity of care, women who have received permanent sterilization who were current or past clients of the family planning clinic may continue to receive family planning preventive services for one or two visits as they transition to other care.
- Women must be encouraged to seek services through other providers such as BCCCP, Adult Health Clinics, etc.
- If demands on the family planning clinic are such that seeing sterilized women will result in delays for scheduling of contracepting women, then other arrangements should be made.

**Responsibilities:**

It is the responsibility of the local health department and its designated personnel to develop, implement, and ensure compliance among all staff on the administration of clinical services for sterilized women in the Title X Family Planning Clinic.

**Policy:**

The local health department will ensure that written policies are in place that address the above required areas in the definition section for provision of clinical services to women who have been permanently sterilized.

**Legal Authority:**

This policy is based upon guidance received by past Region IV Title X Project Officers.

**References:**

Women's Health Branch correspondence dated 1/26/97 and 5/28/10

**For examples of policies from the local level, please contact your Women's Health Regional Nurse Consultant.**