

Title: Deferral of Physical Exam	Policy Number: 2.7
Approved By: Joe Holliday MD, MPH	Program Area: Family Planning
Effective Date: 1970	Revised Date: 1/13/11

Purpose Statement of Policy:

To assure written protocols are in place that address the occurrence of the deferral of a physical examination or other preventive services for men and women seeking family planning services provided by Title X.

Definition:

Defined within the Deferral of Physical Exam policies the following areas must be addressed:

- All physical examinations and preventive services stipulated in the prescribing information for specific methods of contraception, as per evidence-based medical standards of care, must be followed.
- Following counseling about the importance of preventive services, if a client chooses to decline or defer a service, reason for deferment/declination must be documented in the medical record.
- Physical examination or any preventive services may be deferred at patient request or by provider if in the clinician’s judgment there is a compelling reason for deferral of such services.
- The client must sign a declination statement/form and be kept in the medical record.
- All deferrals, including the reason(s) for deferral, must be documented in the client’s medical record.

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 the Deferral of Physical Exam policy in the Title X Family Planning Clinic.

Policy:

The local health department will ensure written policies are in place that address the above required areas in the definition section for provision of deferral of physical examination/preventive services for men and women seeking family planning services provided by Title X.

Legal Authority:

This policy is based on Title X regulations (January, 2001) Section 8.3 concerning the history, physical assessment and laboratory testing during the clinical visit as well as the Family Planning Agreement Addendum.

References:

Title X Guidelines can be accessed at:

https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/servlet/document.DownloadPdfPublicServlet?document_id=7157

Family Planning Agreement Addendum can be accessed:

<http://whb.ncpublichealth.com/provPart/agreementAddenda.htm>

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