

Title: Method Counseling	Policy Number: 2.14
Approved By: Joe Holliday MD, MPH	Program Area: Family Planning
Effective Date: 1970	Revised Date: 1/13/11

Purpose Statement of Policy:

To provide individualized counseling in assisting clients in reaching an informed decision regarding their reproductive health and their choice of family planning methods in Title X family planning clinics.

Definition:

Defined within the Method Counseling policies the following areas must be addressed:

- Personnel providing counseling must be sufficiently knowledgeable to provide accurate information regarding the benefits and risk, safety, effectiveness, potential side effects, complications, discontinuation issues and danger signs of the various contraceptive methods.
- Documentation of counseling must be included in the client’s medical record; which must include the signing of the method specific informed consent after counseling is provided.
- Counseling must include effective use of methods and efficacy of the method.
- Possible side effects/complications of the method.
- How to discontinue the method selected and information regarding back up method use, including the use of Emergency Contraception.
- Planned return schedule to clinic.
- An Emergency 24 hour telephone number for use when the agency is not open.
- Location of where emergency services may be obtained.
- Appropriate referral for additional services as needed.
- Thorough and accurate counseling on sexually transmitted diseases (STD), including HIV.

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 Method Counseling policy 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 method specific counseling for clients seeking family planning services provided by Title X.

Legal Authority:

This policy is based on Title X regulations (January, 2001) Section 8.2 concerning counseling of clients in the family planning clinic.

References:

Title X Guidelines can be accessed at:

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

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