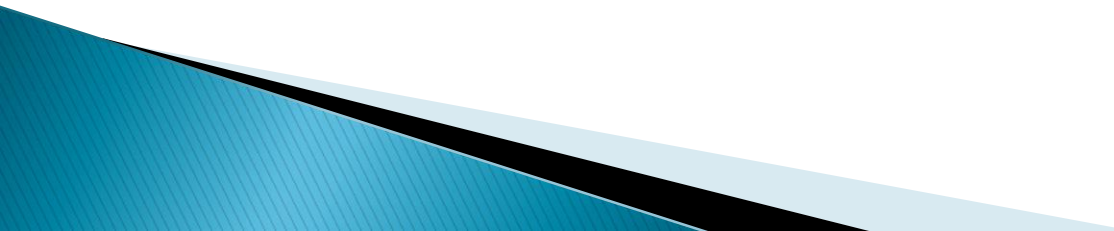


Maternal and child Health services

Objectives

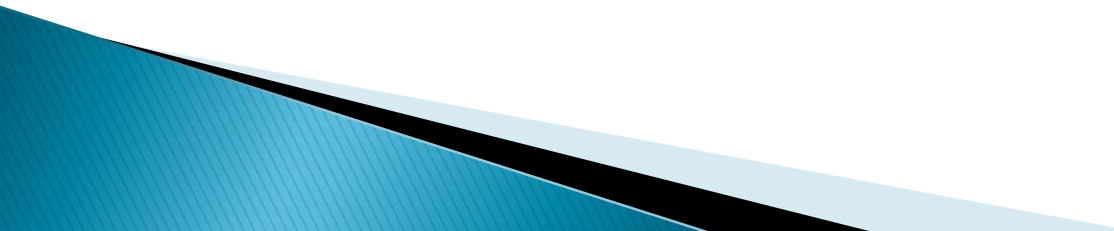
At the end of the lecture the students should be able to understand the followings:

- 1-The meaning of MCH.
 - 2-The reasons why mother and child health care must be given top priority in terms of providing health services.
 - 3- The objectives of MCH.
 - 4- The main components of MCH.
- 

Maternal and child Health services


This program emphasizes the provision of comprehensive care to mothers and children through primary health care strategy.

Definition: According to WHO **Maternal and child Health service** is “The promotive, preventive, Curative and rehabilitative care for mothers and children

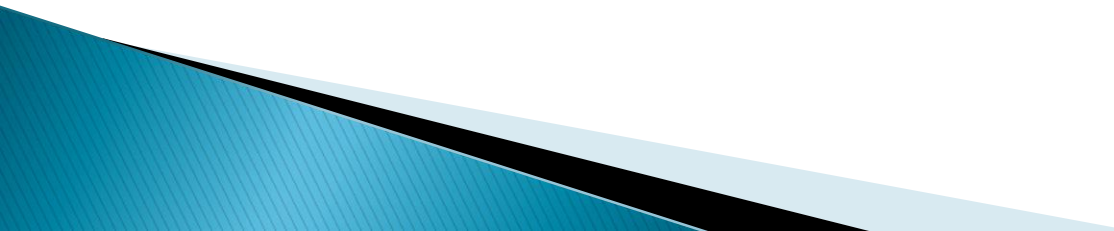


The Need for MCH Services :-

There are 4 main reasons why mother and child health care must be given top priority in terms of providing health services:-

1. Mothers & Children below the age of 15 yrs., make up the majority of the population.
 2. Mother and children constitute a “Special risk” or vulnerable group.
 3. By improving the health of mothers and children we improve the health of the family & community.
 4. Ensuring child survival is a future investment for the family & Community.
- 

Objectives of MCH care:

1. Reduction of Maternal, infant and child mortality & Morbidity.
 2. Promotion of reproductive health.
 3. Promotion of physical and Psychological development of the child and adolescent within the family.
 4. The ultimate objective of MCH care is life long health.
- 

Maternal and child Health services:

At the primary level (PHC) the following services are provided:

1- Antenatal care (ANC):

The aim is to achieve at least five visits during pregnancy. During this period, a file is prepared for the mother in which information about her history, physical health and results of routine investigations are inserted.

The mother is provided with Ferrous sulfate and Folic acid tablets during each visit, and she received two doses of tetanus toxoid if not previously vaccinated.

Early detection of risk factors during pregnancy are detected and treated. If treatment is not available or not possible at the primary health care centre, the mother is referred to antenatal clinics in hospitals.

2- Postnatal care (PNC):

The aim is that the mother visits the PHC centers at least once during the 6 weeks following delivery.

The mother receives physical examination, Ferrous sulfate tablets if anaemic, Vitamin A (200,000 IUs) and may receive counseling on breast-feeding and family planning.

Complications of childbirth are detected and treated.

If treatment is not available or not possible, the mother is referred to postnatal clinics in hospitals.

3-Growth Monitoring of children Under five years of age :

Children under the age of five years are periodically weighed to monitor their growth.

The routine immunization visits are utilized to monitor growth. Those whose weight is found to be less than 2 Z Scores are given high protein biscuits and those below 3 Z Score are referred to “Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers” in pediatric hospitals.

This service usually starts during the first week of life when the neonate is brought to the PHC center for vaccination and examination.

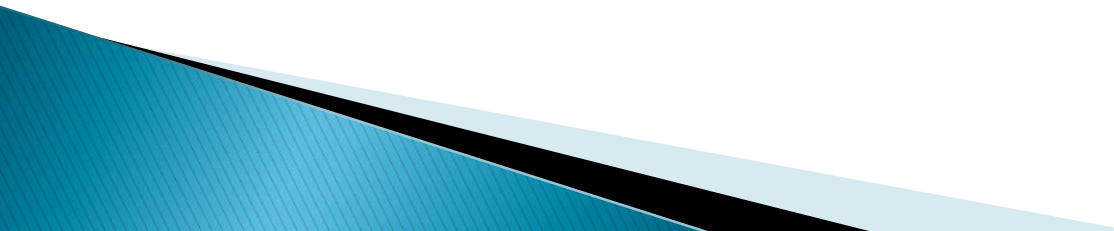
Management of acute respiratory infections (ARIs) and diarrhea using the standard case management charts.

Promotion of breast-feeding through health education.

Immunization according to the National schedule.

Curative services to mothers and children

Some PHCCs in the country provide family planning services.

- All the above-mentioned services apart from immunization are provided by hospitals through their outpatient clinics, which are utilized by many clients directly due to self-referral. Hospitals also provide delivery services and early postnatal and neonatal care.
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It is unfortunate that hospital's stay after delivery is very short. Women are discharged only few hours after delivery without having the chance to receive adequate early postnatal and neonatal care.

Currently, there is no functional referral system in Iraq.



Quiz

- ▶ What do MCH mean according to WHO?
- ▶ What are the main reasons that mother and child health care must be given top priority in terms of providing health services?
- ▶ What are the component of MCH?
- ▶ What are the main Antenatal care (ANC) services that are provided in PHC centers?
- ▶ What are the main post natal services provided in PHC centers?
- ▶ What are the main services provided to under five years children in PHC centers?

Thank you

