

Increasing Contraception Access to Adolescents & Youth Through Pharmacies & Drug Shops

Pharmacies, including chemists and drug shops, increase contraceptive services among women and men, boys, and girls because they are easily accessible, convenient, and popular sources for healthcare information. This approach strengthens pharmacies' capacity to provide contraceptive services and serve as an effective point of referral.

Key Outcomes of Engaging Pharmacies

- Increased uptake of modern contraception through pharmacies and drug shops
- Improved referral of clients from pharmacies and drug shops to nearby public health facilities
- Strengthened linkages and collaboration between private and public facilities



Steps

1

Identify key stakeholders

in the public and private sector including individual pharmacies and drug shops, pharmacy councils, pharmaceutical associations, national drug authorities, drug shop associations, and pharmacy schools for FP and AYSRH service provision.

2

Organize and hold meetings

with local government for buy-in and planning the engagement of institutions and development of selection criteria for pharmacies/drug shops. Plan a meeting with stakeholders to discuss strengthening contraceptive service provision through pharmacies/drug shops and discuss potential partnerships.

3

Map and select pharmacies/drug shops that meet the basic criteria

which can vary based on the private sector and regulatory environment in a designated city, state or country.

CRITERIA

1. Have an up-to-date certificate of registration and valid operating license
2. Have more than one provider with at least 1 licensed pharmacist on staff.
3. Stock at least 2 to 5 contraceptive methods
4. Be located in densely populated areas & in close proximity to public health facility
5. Be willing and able to refer clients to TCI supported facilities

4

Conduct site visits

to pharmacies/drug shops to assess the capacity and ability to sustain the community's need for services. During the visits to the pharmacies/drug shops, work with the local government to administer a checklist.

5

Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

with interested stakeholders that clearly outlines the pharmacy/drug shops engagement approach. The MOU should include:

- Designated roles and responsibilities of all parties included in the partnership, including reporting guidelines.
- Requirements for capacity building of pharmacy personnel, including which staff are to be trained, the duration of the training and the materials to be used according to Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines.
- Monitoring and supportive supervision activities.

6

Hold capacity building sessions

on FP and youth-friendly services for relevant pharmacies/drug shops. These trainings should include guidance on how to provide high-quality FP services, counsel and communicate with youth about modern contraceptive methods, how to establish an active referral system for clients seeking contraceptives that may not be available, and how to record and report on the number and age of clients counseled, methods provided, and clients referred.

7

Establish a referral system

whereby pharmacists/drug shop owners refer clients to the closest health. Provide list of nearby health facilities to the pharmacy and drug shops.

8

Monitor and evaluate documentation and reporting tools

of the pharmacies/drug shops on a quarterly basis in line with the program and MOH policies and procedures. At the local level, include the pharmacists in stakeholder meetings to share their experience.