

A Provider Self-Assessment Tool to Measure Gender Competency for Family Planning Services

Module C: Supporting Legal Rights and Status Related to Family Planning

Data for Impact

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Overview

This document contains one of six modules (A–F), each of which are related to one domain of gender competency. In each module, providers respond to statements that represent knowledge, attitudes, and skills in the domain. For each statement, providers indicate if they “Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree” with the statement. Select modules can be administered on their own, or as part of a holistic assessment. The background and development of the provider self-assessment tool is described in detail in the parent document.

The tool includes three sections for each module as follows:

- The first section is the **Statement and Response Form**. This is the form used by providers to document their responses to each statement. The form includes the statements that relate to the domain, and the response options (strongly agree—strongly disagree). Providers review the statement and select one response for each statement.
- The second section is the **Answer Key**, which shows the ideal response for each statement and a point value for each response. Providers write the point value for their response in the “Your Score” column of the answer key and sum their score for the module.
- The third section is a **Discussion Guide**, which provides a brief explanation about why certain responses demonstrate gender competency. It also summarizes main points about the domains and includes self-reflection and group discussion questions.

This provider self-assessment tool aligns with HRH2030 and USAID’s Office of Population and Reproductive Health’s gender-competency framework and eLearning for family planning service providers. A free, self-paced online training program can be accessed at <https://chemonics.com/resource/defining-and-advancing-gender-competent-family-planning-service-providers/>.

Statement and Response Form

Consider each statement and whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it. Write a check in the box next to your response in the column to the right.	
Statement	Check the box with your response here
C1. I know if spousal consent is legally required to provide a modern contraceptive method to a client.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C2. It is difficult for me to find correct information about family planning policies related to the rights of the client.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C3. If I do not know something about a client's reproductive health rights, I know where I can find out.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C4. I know whether spousal consent is legally required for sterilization, like for vasectomy or tubal ligation, as a form of contraception.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C5. I should discuss all contraceptive method options with a client regardless of their age.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C6. I always support a woman's final decision even if it does not align with my beliefs and values.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C7. I should not be expected to know about laws and policies related to family planning if I am only counseling clients.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C8. I have a hard time explaining rights related to family planning to my clients.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C9. I should discuss all contraceptive method options with a client regardless of whether they are married or not.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
C10. I always keep my client's information private unless they give me permission to share it.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree

Answer Key

Step 1: Use your responses from the “statement and response form” to match your response choice with a point value. Then write your point value for the statement in the “your score” column.		
Statement	Points	Your score
C1. I know if spousal consent is legally required to provide a modern contraceptive method to a client.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 1	
C2. It is difficult for me to find correct information about family planning policies related to the rights of the client.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 4	
C3. If I do not know something about a client's reproductive health rights, I know where I can find out.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 1	
C4. I know whether spousal consent is legally required for sterilization, like for vasectomy or tubal ligation, as a form of contraception.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 1	
C5. I should discuss all contraceptive method options with a client regardless of their age.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 1	
C6. I always support a woman's final decision even if it does not align with my beliefs and values.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 1	
C7. I should not be expected to know about laws and policies related to family planning if I am only counseling clients.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 4	
C8. I have a hard time explaining rights related to family planning to my clients.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 4	
C9. I should discuss all contraceptive method options with a client regardless of whether they are married or not.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 1	
C10. I always keep my client's information private unless they give me permission to share it.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree = 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Agree = 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree = 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree = 1	
Total score		

<p>Step 2: Add the values for each statement to find your total score (sum value from statements 1–10). Be sure to note that for the statements highlighted in blue, the point values are higher for “disagree” and “strongly disagree” (3 and 4 respectively). For all other statements, the highest point values are for “strongly agree” and “agree.”</p> <p>Step 3: Compare your total score to the values in the table below to see if you have high, medium, or low gender competency in this domain.</p> <p>Step 4: Review the discussion guide which explains the ideal response for each statement. To strengthen competency in this area, complete the eLearning course https://chemonics.com/resource/defining-and-advancing-gender-competent-family-planning-service-providers/</p>		
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Module	Maximum possible score	High gender competency	Medium gender competency	Low gender competency
C. Supporting Legal Rights and Status Related to Family Planning	40	36–40	32–35	Equal to or less than 31

Discussion Guide

This guide will help you reflect on your experience answering statements about supporting legal rights and status related to family planning. First, please consider the following personal reflection questions.

- What statements were confusing to you? Why?
- What statements did you answer and then second-guess your response? Why?
- What statements touched on practices that you already do when providing family planning services?

The statements in this module assess your understanding of the need to support legal rights and status related to family planning. As a provider in your community, it's important that you know local laws and policies related to family planning and be able to apply them in a manner that ensures all clients have access to the family planning services they are legally entitled to receive.

Three Key Takeaways from this Module are:

1. Providers must be aware of reproductive health laws and policies within their communities and facilities. If providers do not know something regarding these laws and policies, then they should be provided information and be empowered to find out this information by relying on trusted colleagues or reputable resources.
2. Providers must be skilled at separating their own opinions on family planning service provision from the laws and policies that govern their communities. For example, providers should follow local laws and policies to provide access to all contraceptive methods for clients regardless of age or marital status, if such laws exist. By removing one's opinions from service provision, gender-competent providers will be able to encourage clients to exercise their reproductive rights to achieve their family planning goals.
3. Providers should practice gender-sensitive communication when discussing family planning rights with their clients. It is important to restate or translate the laws and policies for family planning clients in a manner that accommodates different literacy levels.

Below are the answers and explanations for the statements in this module. More information can be found by taking the online Gender Competency for Family Planning Providers eLearning course.

C1. I know if spousal consent is legally required to provide a modern contraceptive method to a client.

Good answers for this statement include “strongly agree” and “agree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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In some communities, spousal consent was historically required to provide family planning services. However, this may have changed and is now not legally required in many countries. Providers should be aware of the most up-to-date laws and policies regarding spousal consent so that they are able to provide appropriate family planning care to their clients. Additionally, it is important to clarify between the law and one’s own beliefs and attitudes when considering spousal consent. A provider may personally believe that spousal consent should be required but if the law says that it is not required then they must set aside their own personal opinions and abide by the law.

C2. It is difficult for me to find correct information about family planning policies related to the rights of the client.

Good answers for this statement are “strongly disagree” and “disagree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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A gender-competent provider is not only aware that they need to know family planning laws and policies within their own community but is also able to find correct information regarding these laws and policies. You can use the internet to search for laws and policies on family planning in your country, but make sure you are relying upon reputable sources (i.e., government websites, registered non-profits, etc.). Additionally, you could identify a trusted resource, such as a department supervisor or Chief Medical Officer, and ask them to advise you on pertinent family planning laws and policies.

C3. If I do not know something about a client’s reproductive health rights, I know where I can find out.

Good answers for this statement include “strongly agree” and “agree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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If you are not aware of the various laws and policies regarding family planning service provision in your community, then it is your responsibility as a gender-competent provider to learn about them. You can learn about them by reaching out to trusted colleagues and researching reputable resources. When assessing sources, it is important to ask yourself if this is someone’s opinion or a legitimate law or policy.

C4. I know whether spousal consent is legally required for sterilization, like a vasectomy or tubal ligation, as a form of contraception.

Good answers for this statement include “strongly agree” and “agree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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The need for spousal consent has shifted in some countries over the previous decades. It is important that all providers know if spousal consent is legally required for permanent family planning methods (sterilization). If spousal consent is not required for sterilizations, then it is your responsibility to ensure that clients are able to exercise their right to do so without spousal consent.

C5. I should discuss all contraceptive method options with a client regardless of their age.

Good answers for this statement include “strongly agree” and “agree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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Similar to marital status, a provider should provide non-judgmental (non-biased) counseling and information on and provision of all contraceptive method options to a client, regardless of their age, if that is allowed in their country. Providers should be aware of whether laws or policies prohibit provision of family planning services to minors without parental or guardian consent. In that case, they can explain options and what approvals would be needed. One’s personal beliefs about contraceptive use at different ages should not impact the contraceptive methods that are offered to their client. Instead, a provider must be aware and follow the proper laws and policies regarding contraceptive access for clients of all ages.

C6. I always support a woman’s final decision even if it does not align with my beliefs and values.

Good answers for this statement include “strongly agree” and “agree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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When providing family planning services, a gender-competent provider can separate their own opinions from the laws and policies regarding family planning services to ensure each client is able to exercise their rights to achieve their reproductive goals. A provider’s own opinion about these issues should not interfere with a client’s ability to make the decision they truly want. If a provider’s opinions do not align with the client’s goals, then they should reinforce the client’s decision by simply stating, “I respect your decision.”

C7. I should not be expected to know about laws and policies related to family planning if I am only counseling clients.

Good answers for this statement are “strongly disagree” and “disagree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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Countries can have different laws and policies about family planning and reproductive health. As a provider, it is important for you to know what laws and policies are applicable to your practice. For example, is spousal consent (or parental, in the case of girls and boys) required to provide family planning services or methods in your community? Are family planning services free? These are all different and important questions that impact how you provide family planning services in your practice. As a provider, it is necessary that you know and understand these policies so that you can counsel clients with accurate information.

C8. I have a hard time trying to explain rights related to family planning to my clients.

Good answers for this statement are “strongly disagree” and “disagree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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A gender-competent provider should be able to explain family planning rights and policies to clients of all backgrounds and educational abilities. Providers can use concepts from Module 1 on Gender-Sensitive Communication to tailor how they explain rights and policies to clients. In cases where clients need to know more about their rights, it is usually best not to read out a law to a client, as laws are full of jargon and may be difficult to understand. Instead, explain the important aspects of the law to the client in your own words, and ask them to repeat back the important parts to ensure that they understand their rights.

C9. I should discuss all contraceptive method options with a client regardless of whether they are married or not.

Good answers for this statement include “strongly agree” and “agree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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Providers should offer non-judgmental (non-biased) counseling and a range of contraceptive methods (as well as information about each) to all clients regardless of marital status. A gender-competent provider will use the information regarding a client’s marital status to support informed choice, not to restrict any information regarding available contraceptive methods.

C10. I always keep my client’s information private unless they give me permission to share it.

Good answers for this statement include “strongly agree” and “agree.”

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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A gender-competent provider always maintains client confidentiality before, during, and after family planning sessions. The provider should only share information with others that the client specifically requests, or limit information sharing to cases where there is a duty to report (for example, if a client is being abused). Information sharing should follow the client’s wishes and be consistent with laws and policies.

Group Discussion/Reflection:

After reviewing the statements on supporting legal rights and status related to family planning, it is important to reflect and plan for how best to communicate with clients so that they can make an informed contraceptive choice. Below are some questions to discuss as a group regarding legal rights and status related to family planning.

- What are some family planning laws and policies that you are aware of in your community?
- What questions or lingering concerns do you have about family planning laws and policies?
- What are some resources within your community that could help providers better understand these laws and policies?
- How do you separate your own opinions about family planning from your counseling sessions?

The third module of the online Gender Competencies for Family Planning Providers eLearning Course is dedicated to supporting legal rights and status related to family planning. The following objectives are addressed in this module:

- Define supporting legal rights and status related to family planning;
- Explain the importance of supporting legal rights and status related to family planning;
- Identify the competencies of the “Supporting Legal Rights and Status Related to Family Planning” domain; and
- Apply the competencies to your work.

Taking this online training will help you develop your understanding of how to support legal rights and status related to family planning and provide deeper insight into the statements in this tool.

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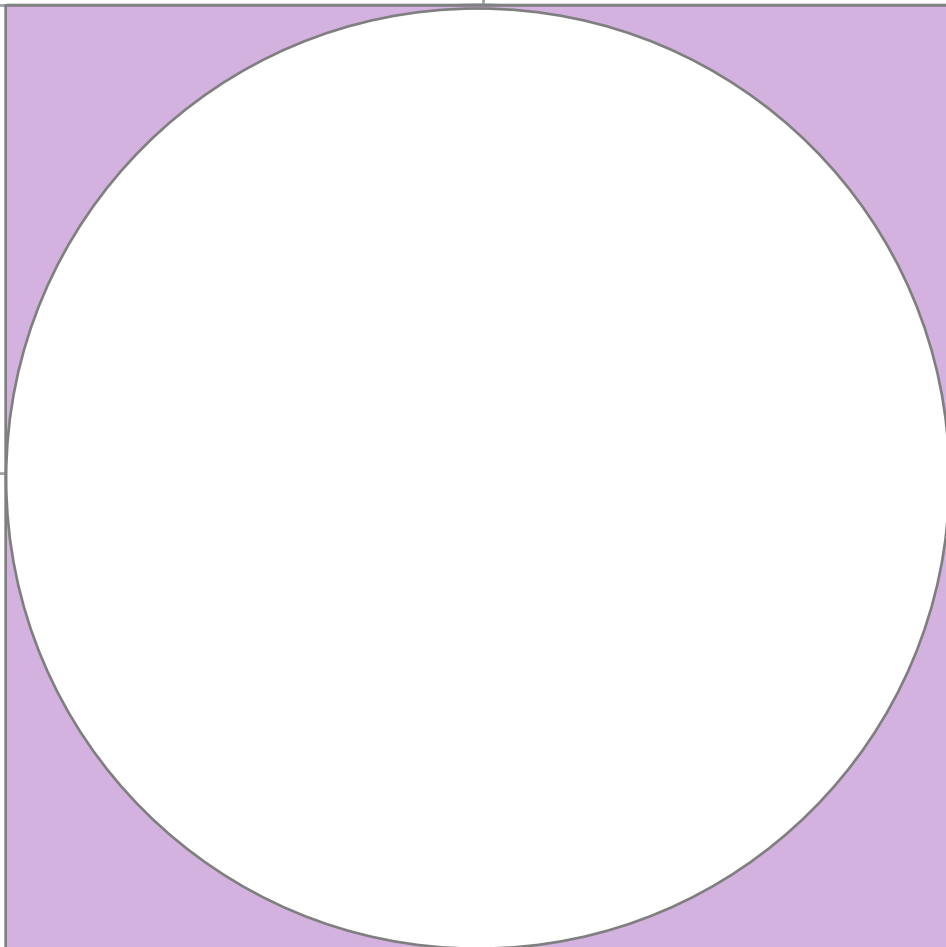
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