

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision In-Service Communication Best Practices Guide

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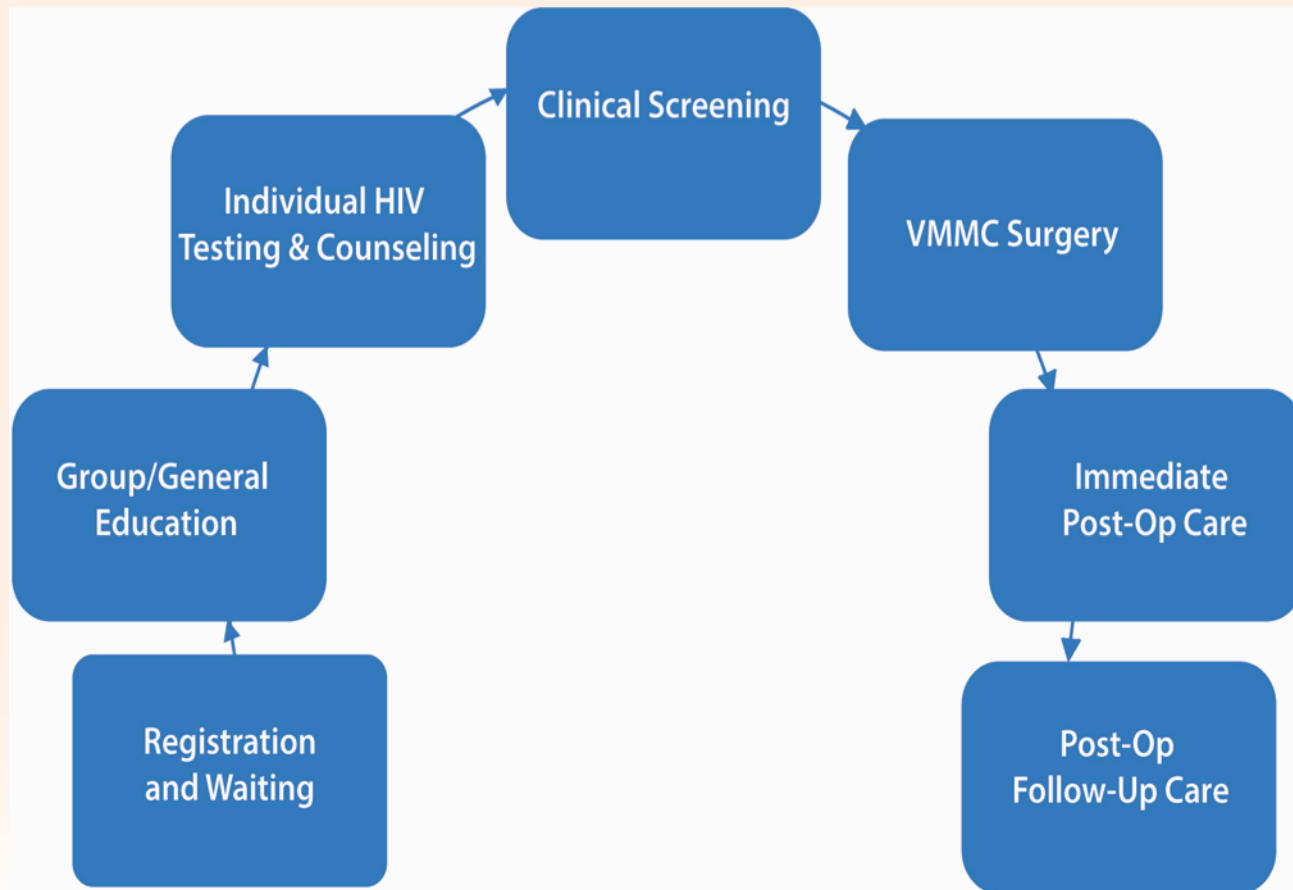


Objectives of Counseling Guide

- Outline minimum essential ISC/C content across VMMC continuum
- Update content based on new evidence, policy and programming changes
- Complement existing PEPFAR and country materials
- Ensure future ISC/C materials/resources address comprehensive VMMC and HIV prevention information needs of programs' audiences.



Contents of Guide: VMMC Service Continuum



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Contents of the Guide

- VMMC Service Continuum: Client Experience
- Communication Techniques
- Tailoring Communication for Adolescents
- Informing about Device Methods
- Mitigating Risk of Tetanus
- Improving quality of ISC/C
- Summary of main topics areas covered
- Appendix: list of sample resources from countries



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..A few sections to highlight from the guide..



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Section on Mitigating Risk of Tetanus

- Provides the minimum core messages related to tetanus risk as part of ISC/C
- Covers which messages to provide at which point in time of the VMMC continuum (ie. group/general session, post-op counseling, etc.)
- Highlights: For VMMC with the PrePex device, application should be undertaken if the client is adequately protected against tetanus by immunization (*following national policy developed in response to WHO guidance).



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New Language on Abstinence & Risk Reduction During Healing Period

- To date messages have stressed importance of complete abstinence
- Studies show that high percentage of clients resume sex within 6 weeks
- In light of evidence, a risk reduction strategy **for those not willing or able to adhere to abstinence**
- Information about levels of risk should be made available



Language Provided as an Example

“The safest approach to protect your own health and the health of others is to completely abstain from sexual activity for six weeks. If you are absolutely unable to abstain, masturbation poses less risk than sexual intercourse, though it may result in a longer time for your wound to heal (longer than six weeks). If for any reason you have sex with another person in the next six weeks—which is strongly discouraged for safety reasons for you and your partner—you must use a condom. ...”



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For Clients with an STI

- HIV negative men with an STI are a high risk group who could greatly benefit from the protection VMMC provides.
- As they are not eligible to receive the procedure on this day it is critical these men are counseled on the importance of VMMC and are actively tracked to make sure they return for the VMMC procedure.
- Extra effort should be made to ensure these men receive a follow up appointment and are contacted if they do not return for the service.
- If peer referrals are a part of the VMMC program, these men should be encouraged to also invite their friends when they return



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Section on Tailoring Communication for Adolescents

- This section offers recommendations for improving quality of VMMC experience for younger clients to meet their age-appropriate needs
 - Putting client at ease
 - Time spent, appropriate descriptions, checking understanding
 - Tailored risk reduction messages
 - Information on other services available



Links to Resources in Appendix

- The Appendix provides links to some good sample materials (flipcharts, leaflets, adolescent brochure, referral cards, etc.) from six countries



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THANK YOU!!!



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