



Webinar

Respectful Maternity Care Awareness

Date: 28 July 2026
Time: 10h00 – 12h00



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Thank you for your interest in this webinar

- The chat has been disabled for the attendees.
- **Please use the Q&A box to post questions for our panel of experts.**
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Dr Lesley Bamford

Works as a specialist in the Child, Youth and School Health Directorate in the National Department of Health and is currently the Acting Chief Director.



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Webinar Agenda with Time Slots

Time	Session	Key focus areas	Lead/Facilitator
10:00–10:10	Opening and welcome	Welcome, purpose of the webinar, overview of Respectful Maternity Care as a rights-based and equity-driven approach, and outline of session flow.	Programme Director Dr Lesley Bamford Acting Chief Director Child Health
10:10–10h20	National Senior Management support	Address by the DDG	Dr N Ndlovu DDG HIV and AIDS, TB, Maternal, Child and Women's Health, and Nutrition)
10:30–10:	Global RMC Guidance	WHO Respectful Maternity Care Guidelines Recommendations	Dr Sithembile Dlamini-Nqeketo WHO Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child & Adolescent health.
10:20–10:30	Session 1: Foundations of Respectful Maternity Care	RMC; pregnant women's rights and responsibilities; dignity, privacy, confidentiality, informed consent and non-discrimination;	Prof Honikman Simone Director Perinatal Mental Health Project
	Engaging Community	Quick poll: "What does respectful care mean to you?"	Ms Joyce Mahuntsi National Maternal Health Lead
	Session 2: Companionship and birth preparedness	Pregnancy and birth companion; evidence-informed benefits of companionship; birth preparedness, emergency readiness and community support; Mom Connect	Ms Jane Sebidi Director, Mom Connect, National Department of Health
10:55–11:15	Session 3: Male and partner involvement	Role of partners in reproductive health, pregnancy and childbirth; emotional support, shared responsibility and improved health outcomes; discussion on barriers and solutions.	Mr Ndumiso Mdayi Director, Never Give Up Academy
11:15–11:40	Session 4: Addressing violence and protection	Gender-based violence and reproductive health; child protection matters; safeguarding women and children; case study linking GBV prevention to maternal health outcomes.	Ms Carol Tladi Department of Social Development
11:40–11:55	Questions, reflections and audience engagement	Open floor for questions from the public, clinicians and women; moderated reflections; key clarifications from presenters.	Ms Joyce Mahuntsi National Maternal Health Lead Moderator and Presenters
11:55–12:00	Closing and call to action	Recap of key takeaways; call to embed RMC principles in community and facility practice; share resources and referral pathways.	NDoH / Programme Director



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Dr Nonhlanhla Ignatia Ndlovu

Currently serves as the Deputy Director-General for HIV, AIDS, TB, and MCWH in South Africa and is an accomplished public health leader and strategist with over 20 years of expertise in HIV, TB, and STIs.



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Dr Sithembile Dlamini-Nqeketo

Is a Medical Doctor and epidemiologist working for World Health Organization (WHO) in Pretoria, focusing on Maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health and child nutrition.



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Prof Simone Honikman

Worked as a medical officer in psychiatry, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology and HIV medicine. In 2002, she founded the Perinatal Mental Health Project, currently located within the Alan J Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at UCT.



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Ms Joyce Mahuntsi

Currently managing the Maternal and Neonatal Health programme at the National Department of Health, South Africa, at Deputy Director level.



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Ms Jane Sebidi

Is the Deputy Director for MomConnect at the National Department of Health where she oversees programme operations, partnerships, and innovation to strengthen public health service delivery.



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Mr Ndumiso Mdayi

Is the visionary Founder and Director of Never Give Up Academy School of Excellence.



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Ms Carol Tladi

A highly accomplished, versatile, and dedicated Social Work professional with over 30 years of extensive experience across the full spectrum of South African social services.



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