



**health**

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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**TO: PROVINCIAL MANAGERS  
DISTRICT MANAGERS  
PROGRAMME MANAGERS  
HOSPITAL /FACILITY MANAGERS  
FRONTLINE HEALTH CARE WORKERS:**

### **MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH CIRCULAR 01 OF 2020**

#### **PREGNANCY TESTING FOR ALL WOMEN OF CHILD BEARING POTENTIAL AT ALL LEVELS OF CARE INCLUDING HIV and TB CLINICS**

Early antenatal care (ANC) booking provides pregnant women with an opportunity and sufficient time to be screened and treated for any abnormal conditions detected as early as possible and where necessary, referral to the next level of expertise (specialist midwife, doctor or hospital with specialist) for further management. Early detection of pregnancy is critical as women are given an opportunity to make an informed decision regarding the pregnancy in case it is unplanned. It provides opportunity for either termination or early antenatal booking.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 urine testing for pregnancy should be included as one of the vital checkings to all women of child bearing potential presenting themselves at health care facilities at all service points (PHC services, chronic care, as well as in the wards). Ward based outreach teams should also conduct pregnancy screening in the households.

Women with a positive pregnancy test result should be offered the following immediate services

#### **At facilities:**

- Counselling services ( psycho social,emotional,and mental)
- Conduct early antenatal booking and offer all basic antenatal care services according to National guidelines and capture such as ANC first visit in the DHIS.
- Provide women enrolled on ANC with Maternity case record with proper written notes, register on MoMconnect and offer return visit date for followup at appropriate service point.

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UmNyango WezamaPhilo

*Batho Pele - putting people first*

- If any abnormality is detected, refer to next level of experts or appropriate service. Women who were screened and registered as first ANC visit at one level of care (e.g. at Primary health care level) and are referred to the next level of care for further management should be recorded as follow up as they have been recorded as 1<sup>st</sup> visit already by the referring institution irrespective of having maternity case record or not (this will include women who come with referral note from private sector).
- Women who might not be sure if they want to keep the pregnancy should be enrolled into ANC immediately until they decide on the choice on termination of pregnancy however those who make an informed choice for the termination of pregnancy must be offered the service immediately, especially if pregnancy is below nine weeks (as per guidelines).
- Women who choose termination of pregnancy but are not eligible for medical abortions must be referred to the facility providing surgical termination of pregnancy as soon as possible before 12 weeks of gestation.

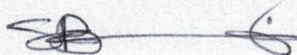
**At households:**

- Record positive pregnancy test, register on MoMconnect and immediately refer to the health facilities, for confirmation of the test and further management by a health professional.
- The WBOTS team leaders should follow up on women who were referred and also assist in managing access to health challenges such as specific day of the service and correct name of facility that provides termination of pregnancy.

Kindly ensure that this circular reaches all relevant officials and the contents thereof are followed as directed. Thank you for your cooperation.

For enquiries kindly please contact **Dr Makua** on [manala.makua@health.gov.za](mailto:manala.makua@health.gov.za).

Kind regards



**DR SSS BUTHELEZI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH**

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