Removing barriers to DMPA continuation: Field-testing a provider job aid in Senegal

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Continuation of Injectables

- DMPA and NET-EN are among the most popular forms of modern contraceptives in sub-Saharan Africa
- Effectiveness of injectables is diminished due to high discontinuation rates
- Most research has focused on reasons for clients’ intentional discontinuation
Study in South Africa: Eastern and Western Capes

Study objectives included the following:

- To assess the extent to which lateness for follow-up hormonal injections is a problem;

- To determine what proportion of late injectable clients leave the clinic without an injectable method.
Timeliness of clients: Eastern and Western Capes

Client's timeliness

- **On-time & Early**
  - Western Cape: 46%, N=289
  - Eastern Cape: 43%, N=177

- **1-14 days**
  - Western Cape: 29%, N=180
  - Eastern Cape: 42%, N=173

- **15-28 days**
  - Western Cape: 13%, N=84
  - Eastern Cape: 6%, N=25

- **29-56 days**
  - Western Cape: 8%, N=50
  - Eastern Cape: 8%, N=33

- **57-84 days**
  - Western Cape: 4%, N=23
  - Eastern Cape: 2%, N=8
Continuing clients’ reinjection status: Eastern Cape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Clients</th>
<th># Clients not reinjected</th>
<th># Clients reinjected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-time &amp; early</td>
<td>n=177</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within 14 days</td>
<td>n=173</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 28 days</td>
<td>n=25</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 - 56 days</td>
<td>n=33</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57 - 84 days</td>
<td>n=8</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percents represent the % of clients who did not receive an reinjection.

“Re-starters” and clients 85 or more days late are not included in this count.
Next Step—Developing Provider Job Aid

- Orientation to and use of job aid can significantly increase reinjection rates
- Job aid used in South Africa needed to be updated and modified for a global audience
- During same time, grace period for DMPA is extended by WHO
- Partnership between Family Health International, IntraHealth International and DSR Senegal was established to field test a revised job aid in Dakar
Field Test Results: Frequency of Use

When seeing clients for DMPA reinjection, how often do you refer to the job aid?

- 60% With all clients
- 30% With most clients
- 10% With a few clients

Provider Response
Field Test Results: Frequency of Use

Circumstances that Prompted Provider to Use Job Aid

- All circumstances
- Client presents with amenorrhea
- Need to rule out pregnancy
- Client presents with side effects
- Client misses scheduled FU appointment
- Client returns outside of grace period
- Client presents with health problems

Provider Response (Some providers had more than one response)
Are you willing to provide a woman with a reinjection if she is up to 4 weeks late without ruling out pregnancy?

- Yes: 17
- No: 2
- No Answer Given: 1
Field Test Results: Information Included

Is the Amount of Information on the Job Aid Appropriate?

- Information is insufficient: 11
- Information is complete: 7
- Too much information: 2

Provider Response
Senegal’s Family Planning Guidelines

Do you think that Senegal’s national family planning guidelines should be revised to reflect the new grace period for DMPA?

In May, the DSR issued a policy circular (“lettre circulaire”) focused on the 2008 WHO MEC and SPR updates, including the DMPA reinjection period.

Provider Response

0 5 10 15 20

Yes No
Finalized Job Aid

What is included in job aid:

► Instructions for giving reinjection if a client returns on time or within the approved grace period

► Instructions on how to rule out pregnancy if client returns outside of grace period; if pregnancy can be ruled out, same-day reinjection should be provided

► Guidance to schedule DMPA reinjections every 13 weeks and NET-EN reinjections every 8 weeks
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