

Key points from second Community-based Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Task Force meeting

March 20, 2006

- A member of the community-based taskforce described a study on women's recognition of "excessive bleeding problems" in Bangladesh. The first phase of the study, baseline data collection and analysis, has been completed. A conceptual model is being developed that would be tested to identify effective approaches for mobilizing women to seek care when they have excessive bleeding problems. The task force (TF) member volunteered to share the study design with TF members. A study report on the same issue is available for Tanzania. This will also be made available to TF members.
- The group reached a consensus that care practices promoted for managing postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) at household and community level, including uterine massage, emptying of bladder, nipple stimulation, and bimanual uterine compression, do not have the supporting gold-standard evidence from existing literature about their efficacy. Recommendation was made for POPPHI to collaborate with other organizations and donors to support an appropriate field trial(s) to assess the effectiveness of implementing these practices at the household/community level. Some of these practices are part of the skills training provided under the Home-Based Life Saving Skills (HBLSS). Documenting the impact of the relevant portions of the HBLSS training on PPH will contribute to the evidence base.
- A consensus was reached for the group to guide the development of a factsheet on what is currently known about the use of active management of the third stage of labor (AMTSL) and misoprostol at the community level. The recommendation was for POPPHI to identify and hire a consultant to conduct a literature review on the community-based use of AMTSL; oxytocin, misoprostol and other uterotonics; and use of basic routine care for PPH (i.e., uterine massage, emptying of the bladder, bimanual uterine compression, and nipple stimulation). The information from the literature should then be used to develop a factsheet on uterotonics use and basic routine care for PPH at the community level. The factsheet should be written in a simple language that policymakers, donors, service providers, and clients could understand. The TF will provide technical guidance for the development of the factsheet.
- A workplan was developed for the completion of the literature review and the factsheet. The target date for completion of the literature review was June 2006 and that for completion of the factsheet is October 2006.
- The TF met with the other three PPH TFs. This assisted in clarifying the roles of each group and identifying areas of collaboration. One issue that came up was that of identifying triggers for community health workers/service providers to recognize excessive bleeding and act to prevent or treat PPH.