



SOP |

LaQshya Standard
Operating Procedures
for District Hospitals

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Maternal Health Division
2018

PROGRAMME OFFICER'S MESSAGE

The primary aim of LaQshya programme is to improve quality of care around birth and reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, neonatal mortality and still births. The interventions targeted specifically for labour rooms (LR) and maternity operation theatres (OT) under the programme, focus on strengthening of LR and OT.

In order to standardize and streamline our efforts to strengthen the LR and OT particularly of the District Hospitals, *LaQshya Standard Operating Procedures for District Hospitals* has been prepared. The SOP seeks to inform and assist health personnel at the district hospitals in providing safe intra partum services to pregnant women.

Child birth is a complex process, and it is essential to provide everything that is needed to ensure both the mother and new born child receive the safest care possible. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Checklists provided in this document are useful tools to organize such complex, and important processes and help deliver better and safer care in a variety of settings.

The SOP describes steps that the health personnel should follow in the labour rooms, OT, Central Sterile Supply Department. The SOP also describes at length the points to be considered to ensure respectful maternity care is provided at all levels to the pregnant women at the district hospitals.

Although the focus is largely on clinical procedures like pre-operative mechanisms, intrapartum procedures, etc., the SOP gives equal importance to the methods and procedures for ensuring respectful maternity care.

The WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist included in this document is an organized list of evidence-based essential birth practices and targets the major causes of maternal deaths, intrapartum-related stillbirths and neonatal deaths it would complement the SOP and ensure that quality care is provided to women giving birth at the health facilities.

Since the intrapartum processes are complex and dynamic, the users of the SOPs are encouraged to share the lessons learned during the application of the procedures for possible incorporation into future revisions of the document. While the SOP reflects usual practice, there will be circumstances from time to time that may require an adaptive response based on the professional judgement of the health personnel and decision makers.

Lastly, the technical contribution made by Dr. Archana Verma, General Manager, Quality Assurance Division, NHM, Uttar Pradesh and her team in forming up this document is huge and is duly acknowledged by the Maternal Health Division.

It is anticipated that the States and UTs find the *LaQshya Standard Operating Procedures for District Hospitals* valuable in strengthening services at the district hospitals and in providing safe and quality maternity care.

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