



Advancing community health worldwide.

Can We Keep It Confidential?

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child,
and Adolescent Health Working Group
February 21, 2019 | 9:00AM-10:00AM EST

Meet The Presenters

- **Bertha Onduso** - Medical Student, University of Nairobi
- **June Nguru** - University Student, Maryland
- **Jane Otai** - Adolescent Health Advisor, Jhpiego
- **Tamera Coyne-Beasley** - Professor, Director of Adolescent Medicine, UAB
- **Mychelle Farmer** - RMNAH co-chair (moderator)



What's the Problem?

- Adolescents present with unique health concerns
- The first point of contact for reproductive health care occurs in adolescence (10-19yo)
- Providers may not be prepared
- Providers may be abusive
- Policies do not adequately address confidentiality



Objectives

- Understand clinical settings in which confidentiality for adolescent reproductive health is vulnerable
- Identify at least two cultural barriers that affects confidentiality
- Identify ways that adolescent health policies can strengthen confidential services for adolescent reproductive health



Case Study #1

- Wote, 18 yo university student in Kenya
- Requests contraceptive counseling
- Requests confidentiality



Case Study #1

- What is health practitioner's primary responsibility?
- How can the practitioner preserve Wote's confidentiality?
- What about Wote's parents?



Case Study #2

- Kui, 16 yo, requesting an abortion
- Married but her husband is abusive
- She requests confidentiality concerning this request and this clinic visit



Case Study #2

- Can Kui receive care as an emancipated minor?
- How will her marital status affect her rights to confidential services?
- What would you do?



Case Study #3

- Patrick is a 15yo adolescent, attending the school-based clinic
- Feeling hopeless
- Teased and bullied in school



Case Study #3

- How should the health practitioner handle this situation?
- Should Patrick receive confidential services at the school clinic?
- How should parents be involved?



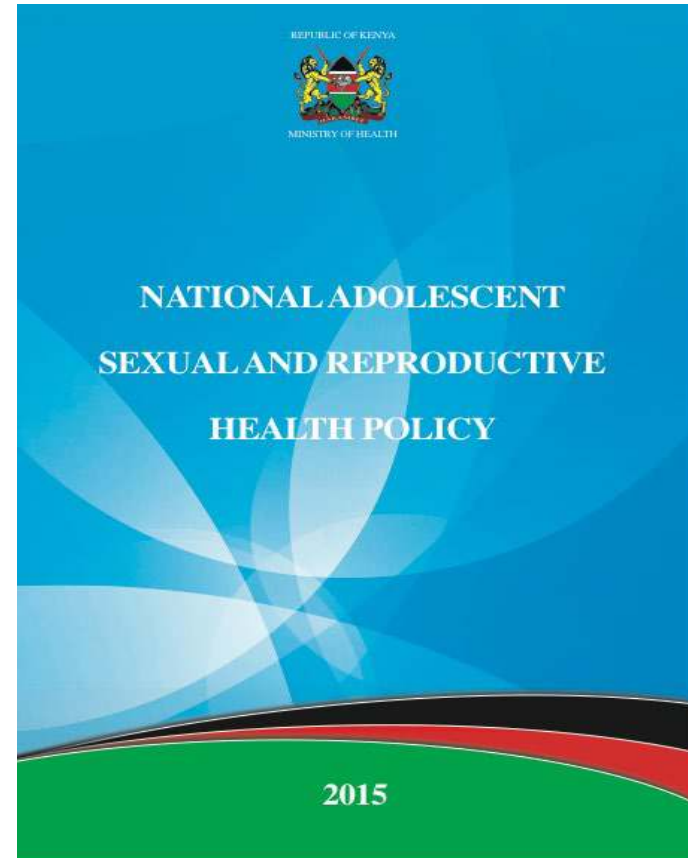
Case Study #4

- Ruth is a 17yo who comes to clinic for a routine physical
- The health care provider conducted an extensive gynecologic exam, even though Ruth had no gynecologic complaints
- It is her first exam, but she feels uncomfortable about this exam.
- What should Ruth do?



Adolescent Health Policy & Practice

Confidentiality is mentioned but guidance for the health practitioner is lacking



Global Adolescent Health Guidelines

Advises the following:

- “Apply laws and policies with regards to informed consent, confidentiality and privacy.”
- Little specific guidance for practitioner
- No mention of parental involvement as it relates to confidentiality



Recommendations

- Help health practitioners to provide age-appropriate, culturally sensitive confidential services
- Include parents and adolescents in the discussions.
- Work with policy makers to improve policies and practice.



Q&A and Discussion



CORE Group Updates and Announcements

REGISTER NOW!

2019 Global Health Practitioner Conference

May 6-9, 2019 | Bethesda, Maryland, USA

<https://conference.coregroup.org/>

PLEASE COMPLETE:

Brief Event Feedback Survey *to help us learn what works best and what could be improved for our knowledge sharing events*

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/confidentialitywebinar>

