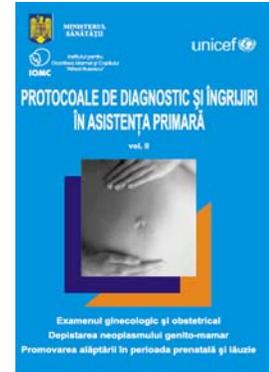


Prenatal care access increase and quality

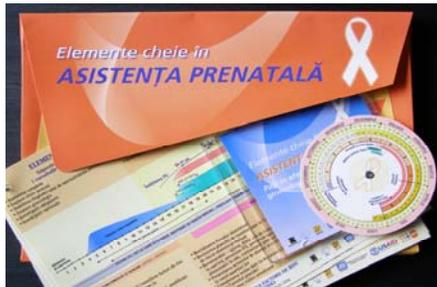
In response to high rates of maternal and perinatal mortality the Alfred Rusescu Institute of Mother and Child Health (IMCH) developed a two-volume set of protocols for diagnosis and treatment of postpartum complications for use by family doctors, interns, and obstetricians/gynecologists.

The first volume refers to birth and postpartum period; the second to the obstetrics/gynecology examination, the detection of genital and breast neoplasias, and the encouragement of breastfeeding. The protocols were approved by MOPH (order no. 2/09.01.2004) and were disseminated nationally in conjunction with the *Pregnant Woman's Notebook*, an instrument used to synchronize communication among the different levels of the medical system and to provide information to pregnant women.



Strategic approach

RFHI, in collaboration with IMCH and in accordance with the approved protocols, developed a packet of instruments for use by family doctors in routine prenatal care activities and in obstetrical and gynecological examinations.



The packet, entitled “Key Elements in Prenatal Care” contains:

- A video entitled “Steps in Performing the Obstetrical and Gynecological Examination,” which is accompanied by a users’ guide.
- A disk for calculating the age of the pregnancy and information about other prenatal care

activities.

- A technical poster entitled “Key Elements in Prenatal Care Without Risks/With Minimum Risks”.
- Technical sheets for the registration visit, follow-up visits and the identification of risks, compulsory and optional tests and investigations, prevention treatments and measures in prenatal care, and signs and symptoms of pregnancy complications.

The District Public Health Authority (DPHA) distributed “Key Elements in Prenatal Care” to all family doctors in the MOPH network. Workshops targeted doctors from rural areas with limited access to gynecological services and where the family doctor can contribute to early detection of pregnancy risks and to routine prenatal care.

The workshops were carried out in accordance with IMCH facilitation guidelines. Topics covered included: obstetrical and gynecological examination standards and procedures, and asepsis and antisepsis measures. Two anatomical models were used (pelvis and abdomen and pelvis only), for the simulation of the obstetrical and gynecological examination.

The workshops were conducted by gynecologists from the county maternity hospitals and were organized by the DPHAs in collaboration with SECS, a local nongovernmental organization.

Additionally, a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of prenatal examinations targeted the general population.



Key activities

- Presented “Prenatal Examination: A Means of Reducing Maternal Mortality,” in Sinaia 2004. Recommendations from the conference included collaboration between family doctors and gynecologists for prenatal care and trainings for family doctors in examination practices for pregnant woman and women with gynecological diseases.
- Created a working group for the development of instruments (IMCH, SECS, JSI).
- Pre-tested instruments with a group of family doctors.
- Procured educational materials and disseminated instrument packet at national level
 - Organized meetings of gynecologists at county level to coordinate and implement practical sessions with family doctors.



Major achievements

- Disseminated 12,850 “Key Elements in Prenatal Care” packets nationally.
- Trained 2,502 family doctors in prenatal care practices.