

Evidence-based decision making in reproductive health

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What is Evidence-based decision making?

- Evidence-based decision making (EBM) implies the use of current best research evidence to that are consistent with clinical expertise and patient's values
- EBM in RH must respect patients' sexual and reproductive rights. Indeed, the individual's sexual and reproductive and ethical values are part of the considerations for EBM.

Why EBM is important

- Traditional sources of clinical information have many limitations
- Evidence is needed to determine the most effective interventions – the use of ineffective intervention is un-ethical
- The Cochrane collaboration arose out of the need to get the best interventions for effective delivery of health care

EBM in Reproductive health

- Although good evidence exists for the best treatment of all RH complications, many of these are not known to be effective in Africa and many have not been used or scaled up in the continent
- There is paucity of information on what works or do not work
- Worse still, the few known effective interventions are yet to be scaled up in policies and programming
- Delay in adoption of cost-effective interventions has been implicated in the MMR in Africa.

Barriers to EBM

- Access to the evidence – unavailability of evidence
- Understanding the evidence
- Implementing evidence-based practice

Access to the evidence

- Obtaining EBM requires adequate access to library facilities, computers, internet, databases, and reliable and steady source of electricity which is limited in developing countries.
- Textbooks are usually out of date
- Biomedical journals are not usually structured to meet the immediate requirements of health care professionals.
- Were these facilities to be available, clinicians are too busy to utilize them
- The evidence may simply not be available for Devc