

Permanent Methods Logistics Overview

The Logistics section of the Permanent Methods Toolkit discusses logistics of providing female and male sterilization so programs can expand method mix available to clients when and where they need them. This brief provides basic guidance on supply chain considerations when managing the medical equipment, instruments, and expendable medical supplies required to provide these methods. For more in-depth information on management of health commodities, please consult the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT's publications, [The Logistics Handbook](#) and [Quantification of Health Commodities Guide](#).

The Six “Rights” of Logistics

A logistics system provides quality customer service by fulfilling six rights: ensuring that the right goods, in the right quantities, in the right condition, are delivered to the right place, at the right time, for the right cost.

Good Logistics Means Good Customer Service

Logistics is the process of getting goods through the supply chain from the point of origin to the point of consumption or use. Logistics works to ensure the uninterrupted supply of permanent methods at the right time, for the right service delivery points by managing the flow of products from the manufacturer to the port of entry through the in-country distribution system and to the final consumer.

Effective and efficient logistics systems:

- Improve quality of care by ensuring the quality and availability of health commodities
- Improve cost-effectiveness by reducing overstock, waste, expiry, damage, pilferage, and inefficiency

Appropriate personnel should be trained at all levels of the logistics system to enable them to provide permanent methods and forecast, procure, and deliver the commodities required for these methods. This includes not only individuals who are responsible for planning or monitoring health commodity logistics systems in the public and private sectors, but also in-country managers from donor agencies.

Special Considerations for Permanent Methods Logistics

Female and male sterilization requires special clinical training, administration of anesthesia, and use of drugs for pain management. Permanent methods require infection prevention equipment and supplies for health worker protection and for decontamination and sterilization of instruments.

Permanent surgical female sterilization procedure (for example, mini-laparotomy) and permanent male sterilization procedure (for example, non-scalpel vasectomy) require medical instruments and expendable medical supplies including:

- Extensive list of medical instruments and expendable medical supplies required for female and male sterilization
- Infection prevention supplies for autoclave sterilization of reusable instruments are required for mini-laparotomy
- Emergency resuscitation equipment

The quality of forecasts, as well as the maintenance of appropriate stock levels, are issues for all contraceptives. However, permanent methods lacking significant historical consumption data have particular issues. These issues are especially important for permanent methods because of the high initial procurement cost of the additional required products. One vital requirement is a nimble supply chain that can respond quickly to variations in demand. Managers should consider special treatment for female and male sterilizations, especially when a program is expanding and the demand is unpredictable. This could include flexible procurements so that shipments to the central warehouse can be advanced or delayed, supplies can be moved across levels to even out stocks, and stock levels can be monitored more frequently.

Key Resources

[The Logistics Handbook: A Practical Guide for Supply Chain Managers in Family Planning and Health Programs](#) is a reference book that explains the major aspects of logistics management with an emphasis on contraceptive supplies. It is intended to help managers who work with supplies every day and those who assess and design logistics systems for entire programs.

[The Quantification of Health Commodities: A Guide to Forecasting and Supply Planning for Procurement](#) has been developed to assist technical advisors, program managers, warehouse managers, procurement officers, and service providers in: (1) estimating the total commodity needs and costs for successful implementation of national health program strategies and goals, (2) identifying the funding needs and gaps for procurement of the required commodities, and (3) planning procurements and shipment delivery schedules to be able to ensure a sustained and effective supply of health commodities.

Additional resources can be found at the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT web site at www.deliver.jsi.com.

References

USAID | DELIVER PROJECT. [Contraceptive Fact Sheets](#). Arlington, Va.: USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, 2007.

USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order 4. 2011. *Quantification of Health Commodities: Contraceptive Companion Guide. Forecasting Consumption of Contraceptive Supplies*. Arlington, Va.: USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order 4.