**Knowledge and Perceptions of IUDs among FP Providers in Nepal**

**Date: 2013**

**Background**

Understanding provider attitudes and knowledge regarding family planning is essential when developing and improving contraceptive programs. For the IUD, an underutilized but cost-effective reversible method, exploring provider aptitudes and attitudes is key to making family planning programs comprehensive. This study takes advantage of Nepal’s permissive IUD service policies, which allow for insertion by lower-level cadres and the private sector, to explore differences in providers’ IUD competencies and perceptions.

**Methods**

Data was collected between January 2012 and February 2012 among *MSS* and non-franchise providers. A total of 176 *MSS* providers and 169 non-franchise providers were included. A questionnaire was administered to providers at their facility by a trained interviewer. Descriptive and multivariate linear techniques were used in the analysis of provider responses.

**Results**

Overall knowledge of IUDs is fair among providers, but knowledge of medical eligibility criteria is poor. Recent receipt of IUD training and employment in multiple facilities appears to improve IUD knowledge scores. One-third of providers view at least one IUD side effect as unacceptable.

**Conclusions**

There is need for trainings on IUD medical eligibility criteria and refresher training. The side effect management components in training materials need to be revisited.

**Keywords:** FP provider; IUD; knowledge; perceptions.