

INTRODUCTION

A major national health priority is the reduction of unintended pregnancy, which is associated with many economic, psychological, social and medical problems. One solution to this is to insure access to family planning services to all without regard to race, creed, marital status or income level.

The purpose of Title X is simple: the provision of contraceptive services and information in order to help lower the incidence of unintended pregnancy, to improve maternal health by doing so, and to prevent recourse to abortion. That was its original purpose, and that is still its purpose today.

The Family Planning Services and Population Research Act, Title X of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) was signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1970. It has been reauthorized several times since then, but has remained essentially the same.

How is Title X administered?

Family planning services under Title X are administered by the Office of Population Affairs (OPA), under the auspices of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Funds authorized and appropriated by Congress are turned over to DHHS which, through its ten regional offices, generally makes grant awards to state health departments or regional "umbrella" agencies (e.g., nongovernmental family planning councils) which, in turn, subcontract with local agencies. There are 89 direct grantees, including 44 state agencies. Each primary grantee is, by law, responsible for providing a broad range of family planning services in its area. THE PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS THE GRANTEE IN NEW MEXICO.

PURPOSE OF POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

The purpose of this manual is:

To familiarize physicians, nurse practitioners and clinic personnel with policies relative to the delivery of Title X family planning and women's reproductive health care services by the State of New Mexico.

To serve as a guide for the orientation of new physicians, practitioners, nurses and clinic personnel.

To serve as a continuing resource to all personnel providing care in Family Planning Clinics.

To provide a tool for the continuing evaluation of medical practice to ensure that Public Health patients receive an optimal and uniform level of women's and reproductive health services.

Companion Manuals for the Family Planning Program Protocols include:

1. Contraceptive Technology, current edition, Robert A. Hatcher, MD, MPH, et al.
2. A Pocket Guide to Managing Contraception, current edition, Robert A. Hatcher, MD, MPH, et al.
3. Managing Contraceptive Pill Patients, Eleventh Edition, Richard P. Dickey, MD, PhD