

# Pre-conception Care for Primary Care Providers

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## Definition

- Biomedical & behavioral interventions that identify and address reversible risks to a woman's health that must be acted on before conception to maximize the impact on birth outcomes improvement.

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## Objectives

- Review the rationale for pre-conception care
- Correlate women's health with pregnancy outcomes
- Promote every encounter with a woman of childbearing age as an opportunity for health promotion and disease prevention.
- Provide examples of medical conditions and their potential impact on pregnancy outcome

## Goal of Pre- Conception Care

- To promote the health of women of reproductive age before conception so as to:
  - ✓ Improve pregnancy-related outcomes
  - ✓ Reduce morbidity and mortality in women

## What is pre-conception care?

- Comprehensive well woman care is pre-conception care for women who may become pregnant. Some women may need more than routine well woman care but no woman needs less.

www.mombaby.org

## Preconception Care

### Influencing factors:

- Psychosocial
- Environment
- Medical Conditions
- Behavioral

**Risk Assessment:**  
Genetics, overall health status, substance abuse, domestic violence, reproductive awareness

**Health Promotion:**  
Nutrition, physical activity, environmental safety, social support, socio-economic, life decision-making

**Intervention:**  
Family Planning, immunizations, smoking cessation, treatment of infectious disease and medical conditions

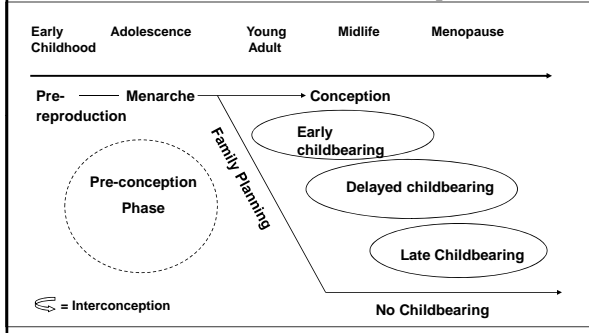
## Who needs pre-conception care?

- Women who are intending to become pregnant in the near future
- Women who have a chronic medical condition
- Women with a prior pregnancy affected by:
  - ✓ Preterm or LBW birth
  - ✓ Fetal or infant death
  - ✓ Congenital anomalies
- All women with reproductive capacity

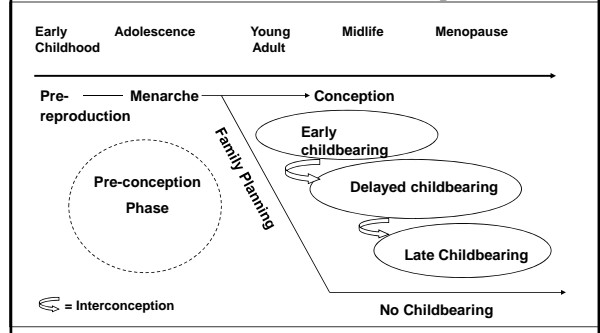
## Interventions That Work

- Primary prevention
  - ✓ Folic acid
  - ✓ Immunizations
- Avoid teratogens
  - ✓ Alcohol
  - ✓ Anti-epileptic medications
  - ✓ Oral anticoagulants
- Manage maternal medical conditions
  - ✓ Diabetes mellitus
  - ✓ Phenylketonuria

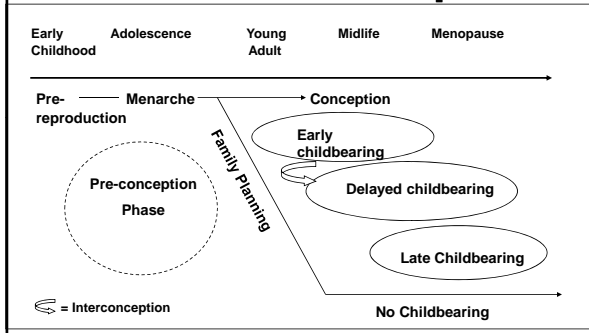
## Reproductive Health Care Across the Lifespan



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## Opportunities to Incorporate “Every Woman, Every Time”

- Well woman visits
- Annual exams
- Family planning encounters
- Chronic disease visits
- Postpartum exams

## Example 1

- 29 year old AA female G3P2012
  - ✓ Hx A2 GDM
  - ✓ BMI—29
  - ✓ OB Hx
    - Term, 4300 gram BW, A1 GDM→C/S
    - Sab
    - Term, 4600 grams BW, A2 GDM→C/S

## Recurrence Risk

- 33-67% of women with GDM in one pregnancy will have GDM in a subsequent pregnancy
  - ✓ Older maternal age
  - ✓ Increased parity
  - ✓ Greater inter-pregnancy weight gain
  - ✓ Higher infant birth weight in index pregnancy
  - ✓ Higher maternal pre-pregnancy weight

## Gestational Diabetes

- Definition: Glucose intolerance that first occurs or is identified during pregnancy
- Prevalence in United States: 1-14%
- 33% will have abnormal post-partum screening
- 50% will develop diabetes in the future
- Risks for offspring
  - ✓ Macrosomia
  - ✓ Shoulder dystocia
  - ✓ Birth trauma
  - ✓ Hyperbilirubinemia

## Long-Term Consequences

- Type 2 Diabetes
- Impaired glucose tolerance/Impaired fasting glucose
  - Intermediate stage between normal glucose homeostasis and diabetes
  - Many individuals are euglycemic in daily life and have normal glycohemoglobin levels
  - All women with this diagnosis should be tested early in pregnancy for the diagnosis of gestational diabetes

## Post-partum screening

- Timing: 6-12 weeks post-partum
- Type of screening
  - ✓ Fasting plasma glucose test
    - Easier to perform
    - Lacks sensitivity for detection of other abnormal glucose metabolism
  - ✓ 75 gram, 2 hour glucose tolerance test
  - ✓ If normal post-partum test, repeat q 3 years

## Interventions

- Post-partum lifestyle modifications
  - ✓ Healthy diet
  - ✓ Exercise
  - ✓ Weight loss
  - ✓ Breastfeeding

## Diagnostic Criteria: Abnormal Glucose Metabolism

Test	Diabetes	Impaired Fasting Glucose	Impaired Glucose Tolerance
Fasting Plasma Glucose	Greater or equal to 126	Fasting value is 100-125	NA
75 g, 2 hr oral GTT	Fasting is greater or equal to 126 OR 2 hr plasma glucose greater or equal to 200	Fasting value is 100-125	2-hr glucose is 140-199

## Example 2

- 36 year old white female G2P0202
  - ✓ Chronic hypertension (diuretic) X 8 years
  - ✓ Hx Pre-eclampsia—both pregnancies
  - ✓ BMI—33
  - ✓ OB Hx
    - 35 weeks, pre-eclampsia, failed induction of labor→c/s
    - 31 weeks, pre-eclampsia, repeat c/s

## Hypertension

- Definition: Systolic blood pressure  $\geq 140$  mmHg and/or diastolic blood pressure  $\geq 90$  mmHg
- Risks for adverse pregnancy outcomes
  - ✓ Mild pre-existing hypertension
    - Super-imposed pre-eclampsia: 10-25%
    - Abruptio placentae: 0.7-1.5%
    - Preterm birth (< 37 weeks): 12-34%
    - Fetal growth restriction: 8-16%

## Pre-pregnancy Evaluation

- Blood pressure control
- Medication change if needed
- EKG
- Echocardiogram
- Renal evaluation
  - ✓ 24 hour urine for creatinine clearance and protein
- Baseline pre-eclampsia studies

## Hypertension

- Risks for adverse pregnancy outcomes
  - ✓ Severe pre-existing hypertension (1<sup>st</sup> trimester)
    - Super-imposed pre-eclampsia: 50%
    - Abruptio placentae: 5-10%
    - Preterm birth (< 37 weeks): 62-70%
    - Fetal growth restriction: 31-40%

## Anti-hypertensive therapy

- Contra-indicated: ACE inhibitors & angiotensin receptor antagonists
- Diuretic
- Calcium channel blockers
- Beta-blockers
  - ✓ Atenolol
- Labetolol
- Methyldopa

## Post-partum Hypertension

- Pre-eclampsia related HTN
  - ✓ Most resolves in few weeks
  - ✓ Almost always gone in 12 weeks
  - ✓ Rarely may be seen up to six months post-partum

## Reproductive Life Plan

- Do you plan to have any (more) children?
- How many children do you hope to have?
- How long do you plan to wait until you (next) become pregnant?
- How much space do you plan to have between your future pregnancies?
- What do you plan to do to avoid pregnancy until you are ready to become pregnant?
- What can I do today to help you achieve your plan?

## Barriers to Pre-Conception Care

- Provider Factors
  - ✓ Physician knowledge
  - ✓ Time
  - ✓ Lack of reimbursement
  - ✓ Inability to promote change in patient behaviors
- Patient Factors
  - ✓ High rate of unintended pregnancy
  - ✓ Limited access to health services overall
  - ✓ Ignorance of importance of good health habits
  - ✓ Difficulty in promoting behavior change

## PCC Prescription

**PRESCRIPTION FOR YOUR HEALTH**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Next Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mammogram Due: \_\_\_\_\_ Pap Smear Due: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Immunizations: \_\_\_\_\_

**R Checked below are the top 3-4 items that apply to you:**

**Healthy Body**

- Eat healthy food and drink plenty of water
- Take a multivitamin that includes folic acid
- Maintain a healthy weight by being active
- Get regular dental and health check-up
- Know your numbers - Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, Body Mass Index


**Healthy Mind**

- Avoid smoking, alcohol and drugs
- Develop healthy relationships
- Get help for feelings of sadness or depression
- Know your family health history

**Healthy Future**

- Plan for safe sex
- Plan for a healthy pregnancy when and if you are ready for a baby
- Know your partner's family health history

**Carine**



**www.mombaby.org**

**LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD**  
*March Campaign Push to Healthier Women and Babies*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Preconception health offers a new perspective on an old problem. The more pregnant health care providers know about health and well-being in an attempt to improve pregnancy health outcomes. There are many reasons for this, including the fact that women who are healthy before pregnancy have better pregnancy outcomes. This report provides information on preconception health, including a definition of preconception health, why it is important, and how to improve it. It also provides information on preconception health care, including a definition of preconception health care, why it is important, and how to improve it. The report also provides information on preconception health care, including a definition of preconception health care, why it is important, and how to improve it.

**LOOKING BACK | MOVING FORWARD**  
*March Campaign Push to Healthier Women and Babies*



**FOLIOACID** **UNC** **March of Dimes**

**Routine Pregnancy Care for Primary Care Providers**

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**CDC** Department of Health and Human Services  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** Search

**Preconception Care**

**Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care: Advancing the Health of Women and Infants Before, Between and Beyond Pregnancy**

The Summit will be held October 29-31 in Oakland, California.

Preconception care is recognized as a critical component of health care for women of reproductive age. The main goal of preconception care is to provide health promotion, screening and interventions for women of reproductive age to reduce risk factors that might affect future pregnancies. Through a two-year collaborative effort, CDC has successfully aligned the efforts of a number of its external partners and internal programs to develop a set of 10 recommendations for improving preconception health and care. These recommendations serve as a strategic plan for improving the health of women, their children, and their families.



**PREGNACED**  
**Information**

Preconception Resources  
[Birth Defects](#)  
[Folic Acid](#)  
[Fetal Alcohol Syndrome](#)  
[Genitourinary and Fertility](#)

**www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/preconception**

**Routine Prenatal Care Goals and Objectives**

- Early and accurate gestational age determination
- Ongoing evaluation of maternal and or fetal medical problems
  - ✓ Pre-conception counseling
  - ✓ Early intervention
- Patient education and communication



### **Routine Prenatal Care “Who do patients see and when?”**

- **Midwives: 9%**
- **Family Practitioner: 6-7%**
- **Obstetrician: 85%**
- **80% of women initiate care in the first trimester**
- **Close to 4% of women initiate PNC in the third trimester**

### **First prenatal visit (OBP)**

- **Establish EDC**
- **Discuss medical problems**
- **Discuss previous pregnancies**
- **Assess for fetal anomalies**
- **Routine cytology and serology**

### **Improving outcomes**

- **No conclusive evidence that PNC improves birth outcomes**
  - ✓ **Few trials**
- **Randomized trial in low socio-economic women DID show reduction in PTD and satisfaction**
  - **Ickovics, JR. Group Prenatal Care and Perinatal Outcomes. A randomized trial. OB & Gyn 2007;110:330**

### **Establishing a Due Date**

- **Known LMP**
  - ✓ **Nagle’s rule: LMP+7d-3months**
- **Unknown/Irregular menses**
  - ✓ **Sonogram**
  - ✓ **Most accurate early gestation (first trimester)**

## Nagle's Rule Example

- LMP: April 4, 2009
  - ✓ Add 7 days = April 11
  - ✓ Subtract 3 months = Jan 11
  - ✓ Estimated due date Jan 11, 2010

## Ultrasound Dating

- Most accurate in the first trimester using CRL measurement
  - ✓ First trimester 3-5d
  - ✓ Second trimester 7-10d
  - ✓ Third trimester 14-21d

## Ultrasound Dating



## Medical Problems

- Assess chronic medical problems
  - ✓ Best done during pre-conceptual counseling
- Assess previous pregnancy outcomes
- Assess family history/genetic history

## Physical Exam

- Blood pressure
- Weight and Height (BMI)
- Pap smear and cultures

## Other Labs

- HIV
- TSH
- Hep C
- Varicella
- Heritable diseases
- Other viral illnesses  
(toxoplasmosis, parvovirus etc)

## Routine Lab Tests

- Blood type and antibody screen
- H&H
- Rubella
- Syphilis
- Hepatitis B (antigen)
- Urine culture/sensitivity

## Screening Tests

- Down Syndrome screening
  - ✓ First trimester
  - ✓ Second trimester
- Neural Tube defect screening
  - ✓ Second trimester

## Nutrition and Weight Gain

- PNV with iron
  - ✓ Pre-pregnancy
- Nutritionist
- Weight gain goals
  - ✓ BMI assessed

## Visits

- Monthly until 28weeks
  - Biweekly through 36weeks
  - Weekly through delivery
- EACH VISIT:**
- BP, WT, FH, FHT's, fetal movement assessed, urine dip

## Weight Gain Recommendations

- Normal BMI 18.5-24
  - ✓ 25-35 lbs
- Overweight 25-29
  - ✓ 15-25 lbs
- Obese >30
  - ✓ 11-20 lbs
    - IOM (institute of medicine) May 2009 guidelines

## Important findings at visits

- Elevated BP
- Protein in urine
- Signs of uti
- Fetal size assessment/position
- Glucose in urine

## **Important milestone visits**

- 10-13wk: first trimester screen
- 16-20wk: quad screen/anatomy scan
- 24-28wk:glucola, rhogam
  - ✓ Consider repeat infectious disease testing
  - ✓ Consider repeat H&H
- 36wk: gbbs culture and gc/chl

## **Patient – care giver communication**

- Information on access to care giver
- Information on safe medication list
- Dietary precautions
- Information on breast feeding
- Exercise
- Travel