



International Consortium *for*  
Emergency Contraception

# **Advocacy to update national Essential Medicines Lists**

**Sarah Rich**

**RHSC Webinar  
June 8, 2016**

# Global advocacy

- Bring attention to specific commodities that are not included on many country EMLs. For example:



## Contraceptive Implants

Implants are thin, flexible rods that are inserted just under the skin of a woman's upper arm and provide sustained contraception, ranging from three to five years depending on the type of implant. For more information on this commodity, please visit the [Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition Product Brief on Contraceptive Implants](#). Contraceptive implants are included in the 2015 WHO Model Essential Medicines List.

Contraceptive implants are included in the Essential Medicines List in 44 countries:

- **Burkina Faso**: Dosage: 36mg and 75mg, Drug and/or brand name: Norgestrel Implant
- **Burundi**: Dosage: 75 mg per implant (2 implants - 150 mg total), Drug and/or brand name: Levonorgestrel Implant Jadelle
- **Cameroon**: Dosage: 36mg , Drug and/or brand name: Nitrile polymer implant
- **Cape Verde**: Dosage: Not listed, Drug and/or brand name: 1 Implant

...

Contraceptive implants are not included in the Essential Medicines List in 76 countries:

- **Afghanistan**
- **Algeria**
- **Angola**
- **Argentina**

# Country advocacy: First things first

- EML Search identifies a gap in national policy



## Kenya

Kenya has an Essential Medicines List, "Kenya Essential Medicines List," published in 2010. Language: English

**The Kenya EML does not include the following new and/or underutilized commodities:** [Cyclebeads](#), [Diaphragm](#), [Levonorgestrel Intrauterine System](#), [Manual Vacuum Aspiration](#), [Pregnancy Tests for Family Planning](#), [Progesterone Vaginal Rings](#)

**The Kenya EML includes the following family planning commodities and maternal health commodities:**

### *Contraceptive Implants*

**Dosage:** 68mg/flexible rod (etonogestrel) and 75mg/each of two rods (150 mg total) (levonogestrel)

**Drug and/or brand name:** Levonorgestrel and Etonogestrel Implants

### *Emergency Contraception*

Regimens Listed:

- 0.75 mg levonorgestrel

### *Female Condoms*

- Includes female condoms

# Determining whether to move forward

- **How important is EML inclusion in your country?**
  - Will it lead to improved RH access/outcomes in your country?
  - Will the public sector only procure commodities on the EML?
  - Do national guidelines include only commodities on the EML?
  - What other factors affect how important this issue is?
- **How likely are you to succeed in the near-term?**
  - What is the timeframe/process for updating your country's EML?
  - Is the policy environment favorable?
  - Do you have resources to implement an advocacy strategy?

# Developing an advocacy strategy

Don't reinvent the wheel.

Use an existing model like this one from Advance FP:

**Phase 1**  
Build  
Consensus

**Step 1**  
Decide Who  
to Involve

**Step 2**  
Set SMART  
Objective

**Step 3**  
Identify the  
Decisionmaker

**Phase 2**  
Focus  
Efforts

**Step 4**  
Review the  
Context

**Step 5**  
Know the  
Decisionmaker

**Step 6**  
Determine  
the Ask

**Phase 3**  
Achieve  
Change

**Step 7**  
Develop a  
Work Plan

**Step 8**  
Set  
Benchmarks  
for Success

**Step 9**  
Implement  
and Assess

Source:  
[advancefamilyplanning.org](http://advancefamilyplanning.org)

# Once it's on the EML...

## You're not done yet!

- **Follow-up to ensure availability and use of the commodity**
  - Procurement
  - Provider awareness
- **Harmonize with other policies**
  - Standard treatment guidelines
  - Pre- and in-service training guidelines

# Thank you!

## EML Search:

[www.cecinfo.org/emlsearch](http://www.cecinfo.org/emlsearch)



International Consortium for  
Emergency Contraception



**msh**  
Management Sciences for Health



**HREP**<sup>®</sup>  
HEALTH AND RIGHTS  
education programme

*health and equal rights for all*