



4 October 2003

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Dear Colleagues:

The Maternal and Neonatal Health Program at JHPIEGO and the Asia and Near East Bureau of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are pleased to invite you to make a joint presentation and participate in a regional meeting to address the issue of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH). USAID has recently launched a new special initiative to address the problem of postpartum hemorrhage.

The meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, starting in the evening of **Tuesday, 20 January 2004** and ending on **Friday, 23 January 2004**. The venue of the conference is tentatively arranged at the Tanawa Ramada Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Review the evidence supporting strategies for prevention of postpartum hemorrhage in settings where skilled birth attendants may or may not be available
- Examine best practices in scaling up interventions for preventing and treating PPH
- Discuss strategies for introducing and scaling up the use of evidence-based approaches and best practices
- Develop actionable plans to prevent postpartum hemorrhage

The regional meeting will bring together leading experts, program managers, and safe motherhood professionals from Asia, Near and Far East, and Western Pacific regions. There will be opportunities to hear about state of the art interventions, explore innovative approaches, discuss challenges in bringing about such care to vulnerable populations, participate in skills enhancement sessions, debate program approaches and plan for concerted actions.

This letter is to determine if you will be able to attend and make the following joint presentation:

Suggested presentation Title: Results from PPH Prevention Project in Indonesia

Objectives of presentation: Describe safety, efficacy, program effectiveness and acceptability of community based distribution of misoprostol

Severe bleeding after childbirth is the largest direct cause of maternal mortality accounting for at least one-quarter of all maternal deaths worldwide. In the Asia region PPH contributes to an even higher proportion of maternal mortality. This new special initiative is not intended to implement a vertical approach to programming. Rather, it highlights a major cause of maternal death within existing maternal health programs and, more specifically, calls attention to what providers can do to reduce its occurrence. In November 2003, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) representing the world's obstetricians and International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) representing the world's midwives will also launch special efforts for preventing PPH.

The manual *Managing Complications of Pregnancy and Childbirth*, published by WHO and endorsed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank, ICM and FIGO contains clinical guidelines for reducing the occurrence of severe bleeding through active management of the third stage of labor and the steps to take in treating bleeding when it occurs. Extensive work has been undertaken to disseminate this guideline worldwide and get it into the hands of providers to accelerate the adoption of these life saving practices.

Unfortunately, many countries in this region still have a large proportion of births that occur at home and without skilled care. Universal skilled care at every birth is still many years away. Recently, there have been several promising and innovative approaches tested such as community education and distribution of oral uterotonic agents that offer new opportunities for preventing postpartum hemorrhage among women who are not likely to be reached by skilled providers.

The combination of these efforts can substantially reduce maternal mortality.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you can do this. Your **travel costs** and **per diem** will be covered by MNH.

In the next two weeks we will be contacting you with more details. In the meantime please contact Harshad Sanghvi (hsanghvi@jhpiego.net) or Katie Grimes (kgrimes@jhpiego.net) for any additional information.

Yours sincerely



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