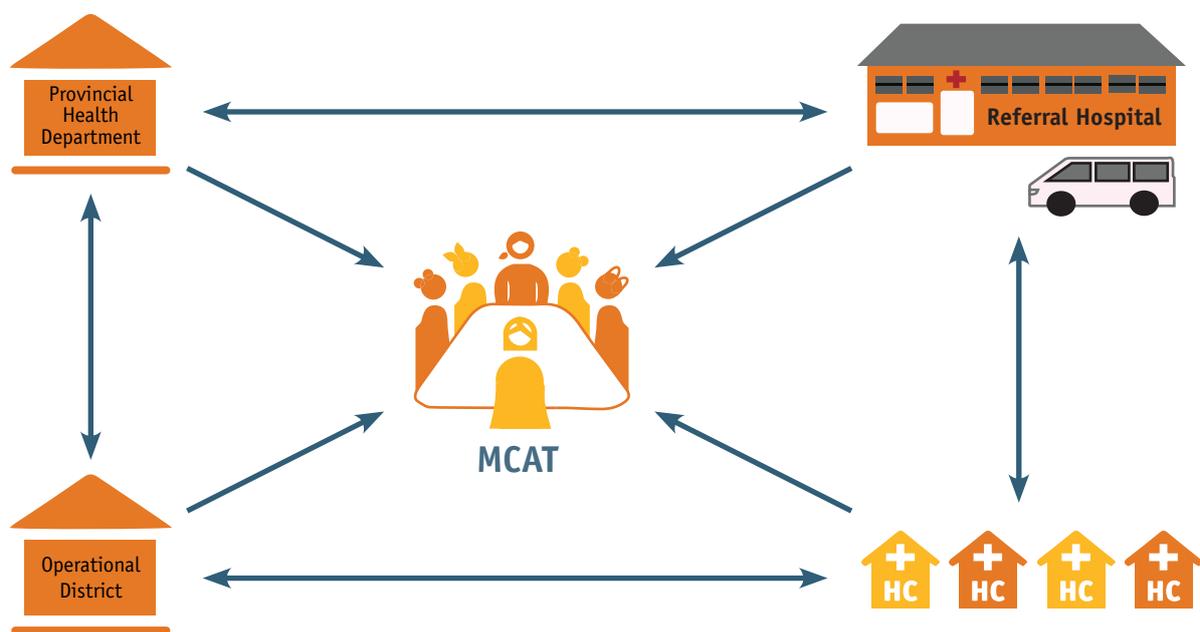


MIDWIFERY COORDINATION ALLIANCE TEAM (MCAT)

Midwifery Coordination Alliance Team (MCAT) meetings are designed to provide the link between midwives in health centres and hospital staff to ensure pregnant women receive the best possible care during delivery.

Most maternal and newborn health care, including delivery, is provided by midwives at health centres while more complicated cases may require hospital care. Staff at health centres and hospitals must communicate regularly in order to have a functioning referral system. MCATs aim to strengthen these relationships, providing a forum to discuss common issues and provide clinical updates related to obstetric and newborn care.

HOW MIDWIFERY COORDINATION ALLIANCE TEAMS WORK



The objectives of this forum are for midwives, doctors and maternal and child health technical teams at different levels to discuss complications and referred cases, introduce new knowledge, and provide updates on relevant topics. Meeting regularly strengthens the health system by improving teamwork, relationships and communication between midwives and physicians.

Every time the team meets, they cover three key areas:



1: Share information & provide feedback

- Gathering health centre feedback and quality of care assessment debrief.
- In-depth discussion on recent referrals and difficult cases.
- Sharing supervision findings and identifying gaps for future training.



2: Team building

- Exploring successes and barriers between hospitals and health centres.
- Clarifying the roles of supervisors and clinical support.
- Conducting team building exercises.



3: Update skills and knowledge

- Introduction of new knowledge through skills training.
- Refresher training based on areas for improvement identified through supervision and quality assessments.
- Updates from national and international level.

KEY FACTS

- MCAT meetings are held **once per quarter** in each Operational District.
- MCAT meetings are attended by:
 - All midwives from health centres in the Operational District
 - Midwives and doctors from the referral hospital
 - Maternal and child health teams from the Provincial Health Department and Operational District
 - Representative from the provincial referral hospital (usually the maternity chief or the chief midwife)
 - Maternal and child health officers from the main partner organisations working within that province
- Sessions have covered topics such as:
 - Antenatal care
 - Pre-eclampsia management
 - Breech position
 - Delivery care, postnatal care
 - Post-partum hemorrhage
 - Immediate newborn care
 - Helping the baby to breathe
 - Short-term contraception
 - Breastfeeding
 - Infection control



BENEFITS

Improved knowledge and understanding

The MCAT meetings provide clinical skills training, allowing midwives to refresh their knowledge and gain a deeper understanding of conditions they face every day during their practice.

Learning on the job

Quarterly supportive supervision visits are organised from the Provincial Health Department, Operational District and Referral Hospital. The supervision gives each midwife one-on-one support while they are working in the health centres and allows them to ask any follow-up questions from the skills training.

Relationship building

Relationships between the Provincial Health Department, Operational District, Referral Hospital and health centre staff are strengthened, improving the overall efficiency of the health system.

MCAT MEETINGS WITHIN CARE CAMBODIA'S PROGRAMS

Consistent support: CARE supports MCAT meetings across a number of provinces via different projects. All groups receive the same support and training to ensure consistent skills development across a number of Operational Districts.

Complementary activities: CARE's projects address reproductive, maternal and newborn health in many ways, including building the skills of community health volunteers and developing interactive ways to engage with communities. These complement MCAT meetings as increased demand for quality services is generated at the same time as midwives are improving the quality of the services they offer.

Engagement with partners: CARE actively participates in provincial and national level technical working groups to exchange and share learning and best practices with the Ministry of Health, development partners, and other NGOs. CARE's experience supporting MCATs has contributed to policy and planning at the national level, including the development of the MCAT National Protocol.



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