

Strengthening Counseling for Adolescents at VMMC Services: VMMC Mentoring Cue Card

Background

For use by mentors observing health care providers counseling adolescents about voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) services using the VMMC cue cards. Providers should be assessed on both counseling skills and content from the cue cards or flip charts.

Evaluation of Provider Counseling Skills

Check the box to indicate condition met or skill demonstrated by the counselor.

Provider Counseling Skills	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The counseling space was private and ensured confidentiality.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There were no barriers (chairs, tables, computers, etc.) between the provider and client during counseling.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The provider demonstrated open and attentive body language.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The provider praised, affirmed, or otherwise encouraged the client.
To demonstrate active listening, the provider:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paraphrased or reflected back what the client said.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Summarized what the client said.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asked open-ended questions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did not interrupt the client.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remained neutral and did not make judgmental statements about the client.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prioritized topics in a logical and meaningful way.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Showed empathy and compassion for the client.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asked if the client wanted advice before offering it.

Evaluation of Content Provided

Check the box to indicate content covered by the counselor.

Group Counseling Session Cue Card	
The provider explained:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Definition of VMMC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steps in the VMMC process
<input type="checkbox"/>	VMMC benefits and risks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wound care, including recommending that clients avoid sexual intercourse and masturbating for six weeks following the procedure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic information about HIV/AIDS (transmission, risks, and prevention)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Importance of HIV testing and counseling (HTC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	How to use a condom (including offering to provide a demonstration)

Individual Counseling Session Cue Card

At some point in the session, the provider asked for:

- Written, informed consent for VMMC
- Written, informed consent for HIV testing
- Oral assent for VMMC
- Oral assent for HIV testing

During the session, the provider explained:

- That VMMC and HTC are voluntary and confidential
- Post-VMMC care (including to avoid masturbating and sexual intercourse for six weeks following the procedure and strategies to comply with this recommendation)
- Consequences of not abstaining during the healing period
- Risk-reduction strategies if the client indicated abstinence is not possible during the healing period

In addition, the provider:

- Asked the client if he is sexually experienced
- Asked the client if he has any questions
- Encouraged the client to return to the clinic or another location to seek services at a future date if he declines HTS
- Provided a condom demonstration if requested
- Offered referral(s) to other services as requested/needed

Post-HIV Test Counseling Cue Card

For Clients Who Test NEGATIVE for HIV

The provider discussed:

- The client's negative HIV test results and offered emotional support, allowing the client to reflect on his results
- The window period
- Prevention of HIV, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Importance of condom use

For Clients Who Test POSITIVE for HIV

The provider discussed:

- The client's positive HIV test results and offered emotional support, allowing the client to reflect on his results
- Benefits/risks of disclosure

In addition, the provider:

- Asked the client, if under age 18, to return to the clinic with a parent or guardian
- Offered active referral and linkage to care, support, and treatment

Immediate Postoperative Counseling Cue Card

The provider covered:

- Wound care instructions
- Advice to not use home remedies (ash, dung, etc.) or remedies not prescribed by VMMC providers
- Symptoms of adverse events
- Importance of contacting VMMC staff in case of emergency
- Importance of abstaining from masturbation and/or sexual intercourse during the healing period
- Strategies to improve compliance with abstinence
- Recommendations to reduce the risk of HIV transmission and facilitate proper healing
- Possible barriers to clinical follow-up, including:
 - Access to transport to VMMC clinic or other clinic near residence
 - School schedule
 - Work schedule
 - Family commitments

Day Two Follow-Up Visit Cue Card

The provider covered:

- Wound care and pain management
- Warning signs/how to contact clinic in case of adverse events
- Abstinence or risk-reduction strategies during the healing period
- Strategies to improve compliance with abstinence or improve risk mitigation during the healing period
- That VMMC provides only partial protection from HIV transmission
- Need for continued practice of other prevention methods, especially condom use, after healing
- Importance of and possible barriers to day seven follow-up visit
- Additional topics, including:
 - Family planning
 - Gender/gender-based violence
 - Masculinity
- Referrals to services to address these additional topics

