



The Long and Short of It: Long-acting and Permanent Family Planning Methods in the Private Sector



e-Conference
May 8-10, 2012

Hello, and welcome to the e-Conference on long-acting and permanent family planning methods, in the private sector. My name is Susan Mitchell, and I am the director of the USAID-funded Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector or SHOPS project. To learn more about LAPMs please view the "Setting the Stage" presentation by Dr. James Shelton, USAID Bureau for Global Health Science Advisor. The presentation is entitled: "The Promise of Long Acting and Permanent Methods".

This e-conference is the fourth in a series of online conferences that we are organizing to share and discuss experiences and lessons learned in working with the private sector to achieve positive health outcomes. The private sector is an integral part of the health system, serving urban and rural areas, rich and poor clients and a critical partner to meeting health objectives. This conference focuses on the private sector in the broadest sense, from non-profit clinics to for profit individual and group providers, from insurance companies to industry.

What we seek to do through this conference is to show what we as a community have learned in introducing long-acting and permanent methods into the family planning method mix, with a particular focus on the private sector, and to discuss as a community the ongoing challenges we continue to face so that we can put our collective ideas together to begin to address them.

This conference has been pre-recorded, so you can feel free to peruse the content at your leisure in any order. If you are accessing this welcome during our pre-conference proceedings, you now have the opportunity to listen to the "Setting the Stage" presentations, join conversations in the discussion rooms, and browse through our resource center and links of interests. On May 8, 9 and 10th, our panel presentations will be available along with live moderated chats with experts. There are also networking opportunities through discussion boards, as well as a searchable list of conference attendees by geography and interest area. There are also a number of helpful tools and publications in our resource center. At the conclusion of the conference, there will be a summary that synthesizes key themes and highlights gaps identified by the panelists and participants. The conference site will remain live for an extended period, and then all conference materials will be accessible on the SHOPS website (www.shopsproject.org). Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you online at the conference.