Tell CLIENTS ABOUT VASECTOMY AND OTHER METHODS.

Tell your client these FACTS ABOUT VASECTOMY:

- Vasectomy is a surgical family planning method for men.
- It is simple and safe.
- After vasectomy a man can no longer make a woman pregnant.
- Vasectomy involves a brief operation on the scrotum. (For more information, see "Explain.")
- After vasectomy a man still can have erections and ejaculations.
- Vasectomy is permanent.

Ask if the client has any questions. Ask what the client has heard about vasectomy and courteously CORRECT ANY RUMORS:

- After vasectomy a man will look and feel the same as before. He will still have his beard.
- Vasectomy is not castration. No part of a man's body is removed. He can have sex the same as before. His erections and semen will be the same.
- After vasectomy a man can work as hard as before. Vasectomy will not make him weak or fat.

Help CLIENTS CHOOSE A METHOD.

Ask your client about these REASONS FOR VASECTOMY:

- Are you and your wife sure you do not want more children?
- Do you want to be the one responsible for family planning in your marriage?
- Would another pregnancy be dangerous for your wife?
- Do you and your wife have problems with other methods?
- Do you and your wife want to be free of the fear of pregnancy?

The more “Yes” answers, the better vasectomy might suit this client.

Also ask about these REASONS AGAINST VASECTOMY:

- Are you unmarried?
- Have you not had children?
- Might you or your wife want more children some day?
- If one of your children died, would you want another?
- Are you and your wife having marriage problems?

“Yes” answers mean vasectomy might not suit this client. Discuss other methods.

Find out—

IS SPECIAL CARE NEEDED?

- Do you have diabetes (sugar in the urine)?
- Do you have heart disease?
- Do you have any bleeding disorders?

“Yes” answers mean vasectomy should be done in a hospital.

- Do you have a hernia in the groin?
- Are your testicles swollen or painful?
- Do you have a discharge from the penis or a burning feeling when you urinate?

“Yes” answers mean the client may have a medical condition that should be treated before vasectomy.

...Counseling is a step-by-step discussion between you (the provider) and the client. Counseling helps the client choose and use a family planning method. The letters in the word GATHER stand for the steps in counseling*:

G=Greet clients
A=Ask clients about themselves
T=Tell clients about all available methods
H=Help clients choose a method
E=Explain how to use the method that the client chooses
R=Return for follow-up should be planned

This “Quick Guide” can help you cover vasectomy in the T, H, and E steps of counseling.

Explain HOW TO USE VASECTOMY AND DESCRIBE THE PROCEDURE.

- The operation takes less than 20 minutes.
- During the operation the man is awake. He is given medicine to prevent pain.
- The doctor makes one or two small openings in the scrotum (the sack containing the testicles). Inside, two tubes that carry sperm are cut, and the ends are blocked. Then the opening in the scrotum is closed.
- The client can leave the clinic in less than an hour.
- He should rest at home the next day. He should not work hard or lift heavy loads for at least 2 or 3 days.
- After the operation many men have some discomfort and swelling. Some also have bleeding, bruising, or infection. But very few have serious problems.
- There is a small chance that the operation will fail.
- Vasectomy does not work right away. The couple must use another method for the first 20 ejaculations.
- The client should return to the clinic or call in case of:
  - Fever in the first 4 weeks but especially the first week,
  - Bleeding or pus in the wound,
  - Pain or swelling that worsens or does not stop, or
  - His wife misses a period or thinks she is pregnant.
Having a vasectomy is quick and easy. The photographs above, taken at the Non-Scalpel Vasectomy Centre of the Population and Community Development Association, Bangkok, Thailand, show the steps: (1) Registering at the clinic. (2) Meeting with a counselor to learn more about vasectomy and other family planning methods and to make sure vasectomy is the right choice. If it is, the next step is (3) an injection of medicine that prevents pain but does not cause sleep. (4) A small opening is made in the scrotum, and the tubes inside are blocked. (5) Leaving the clinic, usually in less than an hour. The drawing at right shows where the tubes inside the scrotum are cut and blocked in a vasectomy. Sperm cannot travel from the testicles, where they are made, into the ejaculate, which is made in the seminal vesicle and the prostate (not shown). Two tubes are blocked, but only one shows in this drawing.