

15.17 SOCIAL SERVICE REFERRAL GUIDELINES

Referral definition: Written information from a Title X provider for a client to see a comprehensive primary care provider or OB-GYN, and/or to receive certain medical or social services.

Policy: Title X clinics must develop a plan to coordinate and refer for social services related to family planning including counseling, referral to and from other social agencies and any ancillary services which may be necessary to facilitate clinic attendance (*42 CFR 59.5 (b)(2)*).

Title X clinics must provide for coordination and use of referral arrangements with other providers of health care services, local health and welfare departments, hospitals, voluntary agencies, and health services projects supported by other federal programs (*42 CFR 59.5 (b)(8)*).

Procedure:

1. Title X providers should be trained and equipped to offer all family planning and related preventive health services so that they can provide optimal care to clients, with referral for specialist care, as needed.
2. Title X clinics must maintain a list of local health care providers, welfare departments, hospitals, voluntary agencies, and other health services supported by other federal programs. Whenever possible, clients should be given a choice of providers from which to select.
3. When appropriate, Title X clinics must establish memorandum of understanding with referral agencies. For example, a clinic may establish a referral agreement with an agency serving clients who are victims of domestic violence (DV), intimate partner violence (IPV) or sexual violence (SV).
4. Social service referrals may include, but are not be limited to:
 - a. Child care agencies
 - b. Transport providers
 - c. WIC programs
 - d. Child protective services
 - e. IPV, DV, SV victim service programs
 - f. Other services, as appropriate
5. Title X clinics may aid the client in identifying potential resources for reimbursement of the referral provider, but are not responsible for the cost of this care. Title X clinics should explore potential alternative sources of reimbursement for the referral care.
6. A Title X project may not use the provision of any prenatal, social service, emergency medical, or other referral, of any counseling, or of any provider lists, as an indirect means of encouraging or promoting abortion as a method of family planning.