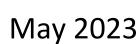


## ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF MATERNAL HEALTHCARE IN INDIA



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#### **Contributors**

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#### **About Sattva Knowledge Institute**

Sattva Knowledge Institute (SKI), established in 2022, is our official knowledge platform at Sattva. The SKI platform aims to guide investment decisions for impact, shedding light on urgent problems and high potential solutions, so that stakeholders can build greater awareness and a bias towards concerted action. Our focus is on offering solutions over symptoms, carefully curating strong evidence-based research, and engaging decision-makers actively with our insights. Overall, **SKI aims to shift intent and action toward greater impact by influencing leaders with knowledge.** All of our content proactively leverages the capabilities, experience and proprietary data from across Sattva.

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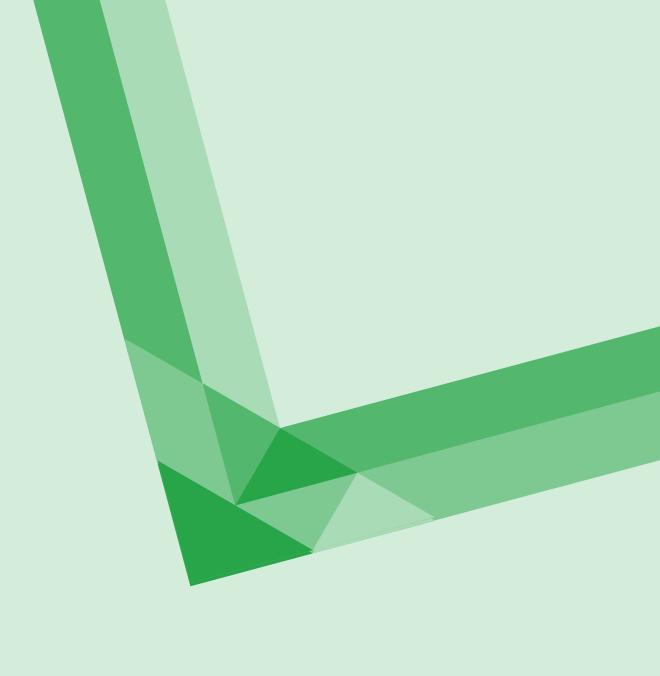
## **ABBREVIATIONS**



AB-PMJAY	Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
AMANAT	Apatkalin Matritva Avum Navjaat Tatparta Karyakram
ANC	Antenatal care
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ANMOL	ANM Online
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
СНС	Community Health Centre
FOGSI	The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India
FRU	First Referral Unit
НСО	Health Care Organisation
HWC	Health and Wellness Centre
IPHS	Indian Public Health Standards
ISQua	The International Society for Quality in Healthcare
JCI	Joint Commission International
JSSK	Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana
LaQshya	Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative
MAS	Mahila Arogya Samiti
MCTS	Mother and Child Tracking System

MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development		
NABH	National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers		
NABI	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories		
NHIV	National Health Mission		
NHSRO	National Health Systems Resource Centre		
NQAF	National Quality Assurance Programme		
NQAS	National Quality Assurance Standards		
PHO	Primary Health Centre		
PMSMA	Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan		
PNC	Postnatal Care		
QA	Quality Assurance		
QC	Quality Council of India		
Q	Quality Improvement		
RKS	Rogi Kalyan Samiiti		
SCC	Safe Childbirth Checklist		
SHCC	Small Healthcare Organisation		
SUMAN	Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan		
WHO	World Health Organization		

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



Quality in maternal healthcare is defined as the degree to which the maternal and newborn health services can be considered to be safe, effective, timely, efficient, equitable and people-centred. Integration of quality of care across the antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal period is essential to improve healthcare outcomes of mothers and newborns. As such, higher quality care would decrease the likelihood of the maternal and/or infant mortality, while also improving accessibility, utility and efficiency of the health systems, resulting in an improved experience for users.

Three types of stakeholders are engaged in quality of maternal health care - **PAYERS** (including government, users) fund and govern quality health delivery; **PROVIDERS** (including healthcare providers and platforms) deliver and implement quality as part of delivery of care; and **ENABLERS** (including apex bodies, professional associations etc.) play a supporting function by monitoring and influencing policy.

Quality includes quality assurance (QA), a measurement-oriented recurring benchmarking, and quality improvement (QI), a change-oriented activity undertaken on an ongoing basis. In India, policies and programmes have included several QA and QI initiatives for health overall and maternal health, however their uptake has been limited.

The quality in maternal health framework includes three components across the continuum of care. **Foundational health system levers** (including governance, infrastructure, technology and tools, health workforce and demand-side factors) form critical components of the system, which are implemented via **processes of care**. These enable competent care and systems and positive client experiences, thereby resulting in **improved outcomes** as an impact of greater quality. This results in better health, greater confidence in systems and economic benefits through enhances productivity and efficiency.

Challenges exist across all five foundational levers in maternal health quality in India. Solutions in the ecosystem focus on capacity building, upgrading infrastructure, and monitoring of healthcare provisions, and include capacity building and upskilling health workers on dignified care, in addition to technical skills; bolstering medical equipment and supplies in maternal healthcare, in line with standards and guidelines; and strengthening the systemic monitoring and client feedback mechanisms through awareness generation, and enabling demand for quality services.

Dialogue and action around quality is gaining traction in India. The private sector is getting more involved in defining, enabling and monitoring quality of maternal health care with a rise in solutions and interventions in this space. With the government undertaking pay-for-performance measures, recognising the need for QA mechanisms, and viewing quality as an important criteria for hospital empanelment and cashless transfer facilities by insurance providers, there is a strong tailwind to strengthen quality of maternal health.

## WHAT DOES QUALITY IN MATERNAL HEALTH ENTAIL?



## Quality in maternal healthcare is essential to achieve better maternal and newborn health outcomes across populations.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

The degree to which health **Quality of Care** services for individuals and populations... ...increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes (WHO 2020). **Quality of Care in Maternal Health** 

The degree to which maternal and newborn health services (for individuals and populations)...

- ... increase the likelihood of timely, appropriate care...
- ... for the purpose of achieving desired outcomes...
- ... that are both consistent with **current professional knowledge...**
- ... and take into account the **preferences and** aspirations of individual women and their families (WHO 2016a).

## High quality maternal healthcare has six key components integrated throughout the motherhood journey.



#### Integration of quality across all stages of the continuum of care is essential.

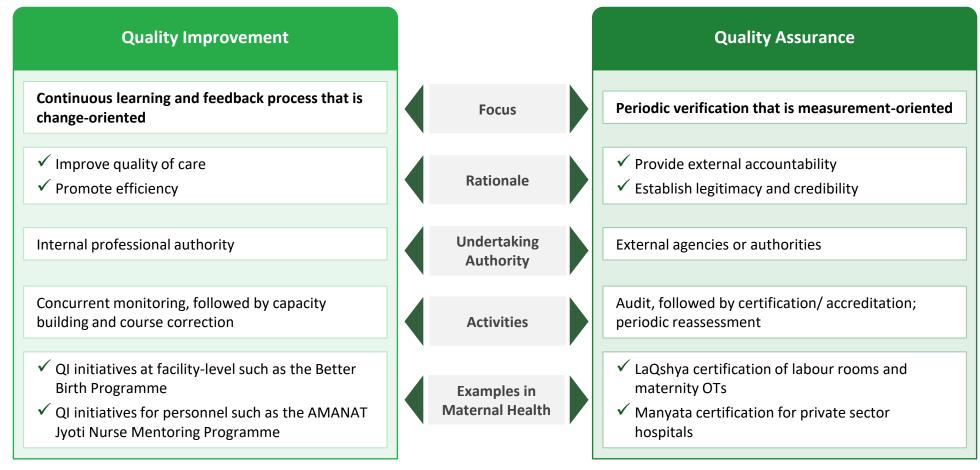
Quality of care integration across the maternal health lifecycle

**Antenatal period Intrapartum period** Postnatal period Period Conception to labour ------ Labour and delivery ------ Up to 42 days post-delivery -----Activities Routine checkups for postpartum Routine health checkups and Medical care and referral during complications; breastfeeding and delivery fertility care psychosocial support Skilled health worker Skilled attendance at birth Skilled community health worker or **personnel** to provide (WHO 2022): to provide (WHO 2016b): to provide (WHO 2015): ✓ At least four to eight ANC contacts\* ✓ Assessment and referral, if needed ✓ At least four PNC contacts Components ✓ Nutritional interventions, including ✓ Drug administration, if required Interventions for physiological supplementation and counseling problems such as pain, difficulty ✓ Psychosocial support ✓ Maternal assessment breastfeeding, etc. ✓ Haemorrhage prevention Preventive measures, including mental ✓ Foetal assessment Care immediately after delivery healthcare ✓ Preventive interventions including **Nutritional interventions** tetanus toxoid vaccination Contraception

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Guidelines in India still prescribe a minimum of four ANCs; postnatal care also includes care for newborns in addition to the components mentioned here.

#### Quality includes quality assurance, a measurement-oriented activity, and quality improvement, a change-oriented continuous process.

#### Types of quality interventions



(Adapted from Quentin et al. 2019)

#### WHO quality standards of maternal health define measurable indicators for implementation of services.

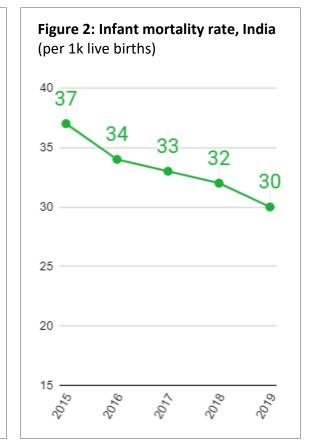
#### WHO standards of maternal health quality

Evidence-based Care	Every woman and newborn receives routine, evidence-based care and management of complications during labour, childbirth and the early postnatal period.
Actionable Data Systems	The health information system enables use of data to ensure early, appropriate action to improve the care of every woman and newborn.
Functional Referral Systems	Every woman and newborn with condition(s) that cannot be dealt with effectively with the available resources is appropriately referred.
Effective Communication	Communication with women and their families is effective and responds to their needs and preferences.
Dignified Care	Women and newborns receive care with respect and can maintain their dignity.
Emotional Support	Every woman and her family are provided with <b>emotional support</b> that is sensitive to their needs and <b>strengthens the woman's capability.</b>
Capable Staff	For every woman and newborn, <b>competent, motivated staff are consistently available</b> to provide routine care and manage complications.
<b>Essential Resources</b>	The health facility has an <b>appropriate physical environment</b> , with adequate water, sanitation and energy supplies, medicines, supplies and equipment for routine maternal and newborn care and management of complications.
(WHO 2016-a)	

#### **Ensuring quality in maternal healthcare enables outcomes at individual and systemic levels.**

#### Quality of care results in greater maternal and newborn survival...





Data source: MOHFW 2022b, MOHFW 2022c

#### ...as well as better health system outcomes.



**Increased access** to dignified care (WHO 2018a)



**Increased utilisation** of health services (Kruk et al. 2018)



**Better experience** for clients and improved satisfaction (World Bank 2004)



**More efficiency**, with reduced costs and increased revenue (Shah and Course 2018)

## KEY INITIATIVES AND STAKEHOLDERS



#### Payers, providers and enablers contribute towards better quality in maternal healthcare.

#### **Quality Maternal Healthcare Stakeholders ENABLERS PAYERS** Government (MoHFW, MWCD, MCA) Apex bodies (NITI Aayog, NHM) • Maternal Healthcare consumers Industry associations Health researchers Accreditation bodies Insurers (public and private) Professional associations\* Philanthropic organisations Non-governmental organisations **PROVIDERS** Healthcare providers (public and private) – physicians, specialists etc. Frontline workers Delivery solutions and platforms

\*Professional associations refer to networks of individual service providers. They act as enablers for greater adoption and prioritisation.

(Adapted from Mathematica 2019)

#### **Enablers support the ecosystem by assisting, monitoring and influencing policy for better quality** of maternal healthcare.

#### Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders in Quality Maternal Healthcare

	Stakeholders	Policy and Legislation	Funding	Healthcare Delivery	Monitoring and Feedback	Influencing Policy
	Apex bodies	$\otimes$			$\otimes$	$\otimes$
	Insurers (public and private)				$\otimes$	8
(0	Industry associations				$\otimes$	8
Enablers	Health researchers			$\otimes$	$\otimes$	8
Ш	Professional associations					8
	Philanthropic organisations		$\otimes$			8
	Non-governmental organisations			$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$

(Sattva 2023; adapted from Mathematica 2019)

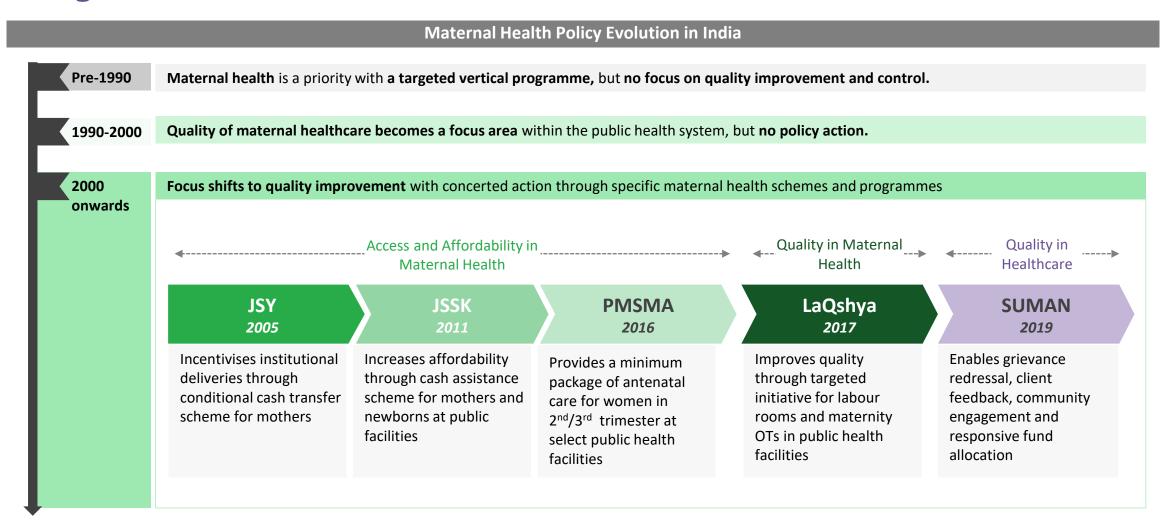
#### Payers fund quality initiatives, create guidelines and monitor delivery; providers responsible for delivering high quality care.

#### Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders in Quality Maternal Healthcare

	Stakeholders	Policy and Legislation	Funding	Healthcare Delivery	Monitoring and Feedback	Influencing Policy
	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	
ers	Ministry of Women and Child Development	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	
Payers	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$	
	Maternal healthcare consumers		$\otimes$		$\otimes$	$\otimes$
Ş	Healthcare providers (private and public)			$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$
Providers	Frontline workers			$\otimes$	$\otimes$	
Ā	Delivery solutions and platforms			$\otimes$	$\otimes$	$\otimes$

(Sattva 2023; adapted from Mathematica 2019)

## Since 2000, maternal health policy in India has evolved to include targeted quality improvement strategies and initiatives.

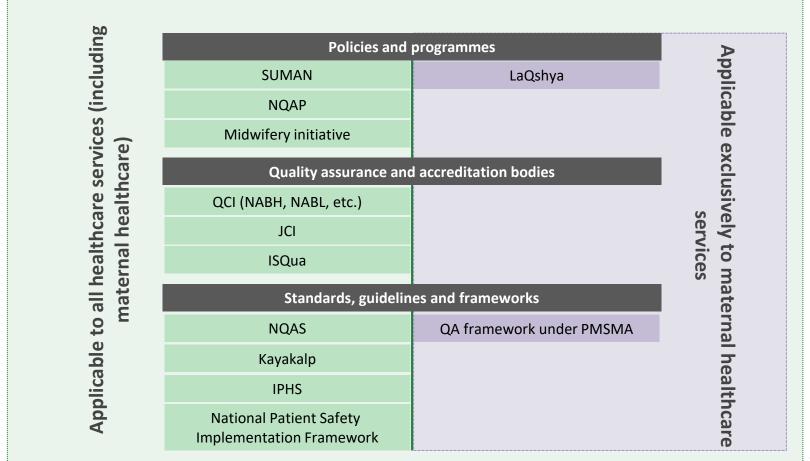


Note: The policies above are only indicative of key milestones in the evolution of maternal health quality in India.

(Adapted from Srivastava et al. 2014 and Agarwalla et al. 2019)

Quality in health initiatives broadly create an enabling environment for maternal health quality in the public sector.

#### Landscape for Maternal Health Quality in India's Public Sector



Note: Not an exhaustive list

#### In comparison, the private sector has fewer initiatives, with limited QA solutions in maternal health.

#### Landscape for Maternal Health Quality in India's Private Sector

e	Policies and	programmes	
Car	PMSMA*	LaQshya	nat
alth	Quality assurance and	d accreditation bodies	aterna
maternal healthcare	QCI (NABH, NABL, etc.)	Manyata	al h
rna	JCI		ealt
ate	ISQua		lthca
<u>ه</u>	Standards, guidelin	es and frameworks	re
	NQAS		serv
includin	National Patient Safety Implementation Framework		vices

Note: Not an exhaustive list

<sup>\*</sup> The programme by MoHFW aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost and follows a systematic approach for engagement with the private sector, which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer and be part of the programme. The programme has set 'Standards for Provision of Complete & Quality Antenatal Care' and a monthly reporting format which applies to all public and private service providers.

#### The majority of quality assurance initiatives are promoting overall quality in health, with limited **QA** focused on maternal health.

#### **Quality Accreditations and Certifications for Health Facilities in India**

NABH (Under QCI)	NQAS (under NQAP)	LaQshya	
Quality in healthcare facilities	Quality in healthcare facilities	Quality in maternal healthcare facilities	
Public and private facilities • HCO (>50 beds) • SHCO (<50 beds)	Only public health facilities (at all levels)	Only public health facilities Labour rooms Maternity OTs	
✓ Process of patient care ✓ Patie	ent rights, safety ✓ Infection control	Layout and workflow  Adherence to clinical protocols for	
<ul><li>✓ Information systems</li><li>✓ Human resource management</li></ul>	<ul><li>✓ Quality management</li><li>✓ Outcomes</li></ul>	management of complications  ✓ Human resources  ✓ Outcomes	
(NABH n.d)	(MoHFW 2022)	(MoHFW 2022)	

(MoHFW, n.d.a)

Note: [] denotes maternal health specific QA initiatives

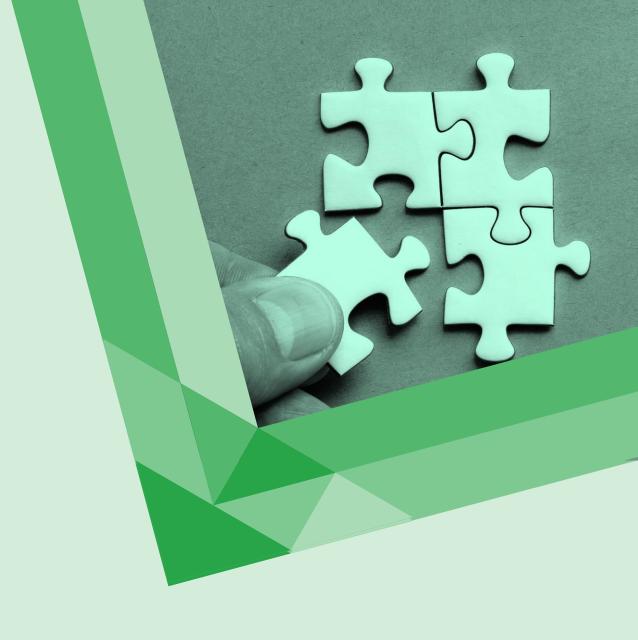
#### The uptake of QA in maternal and overall health has been limited.

#### **Quality Accreditations and Certifications for Health Facilities in India**

	NABH (Under QCI)	NQAS (under NQAP)	LaQshya
ıf Facilities	<b>1,119</b> Hospitals with NABH accreditation in 2022	1,639 Public health facilities with national-level NQAS certification in 2022	Labour rooms in public health facilities with LaQshya certification in 2022
Number of	<b>726</b> Small healthcare organisations with NABH accreditation in 2021	3,567  Public health facilities with state-level NQAS certification in 2022	440  Maternity OTs in public health facilities with LaQshya certification in 2022
(NA	BH n.d)	(MoHFW 2022)	(MoHFW 2022)

Note: [] denotes maternal health specific QA initiatives

## FRAMEWORK FOR QUALITY IN MATERNAL HEALTH



#### Achieving high-quality maternal health needs action on the foundations of healthcare, to ensure appropriate processes of care and quality outcomes.

#### Framework for quality in maternal healthcare

#### **FOUNDATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM LEVERS**

#### **Demand-side**

• Clients of maternal healthcare, their families and communities

#### Governance

- Leadership, policies and financing
- Social determinants

#### Infrastructure

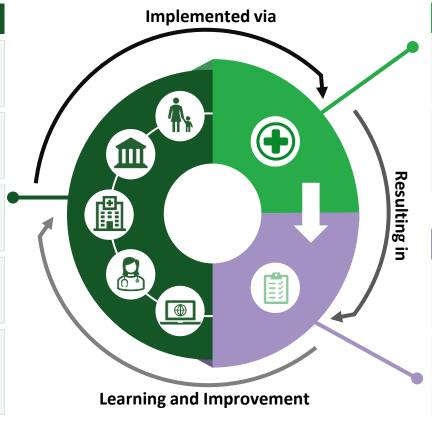
- Health facilities
- Equipment and supplies

#### Workforce

- Maternal health workers
- Planners and managers

#### **Technology and tools**

- Information systems
- Use of data
- Feedback mechanisms



#### **PROCESSES OF CARE**

#### **Competent care and systems**

- Evidence-based effective care
- Capable systems

#### Positive client experience, constituting:

- Respect
- Client focused care
- Enabling client (women) feedback

#### **QUALITY IMPACTS**

#### Better health

Client outcomes

#### **Confidence in system**

- Satisfaction and trust
- Care uptake

#### **Economic benefit**

- Cognitive ability, work productivity
- Financial risk protection
- Health system efficiency

(Adapted from Kruk et al. 2018 and Quality, Equity, Dignity framework by WHO 2018b)

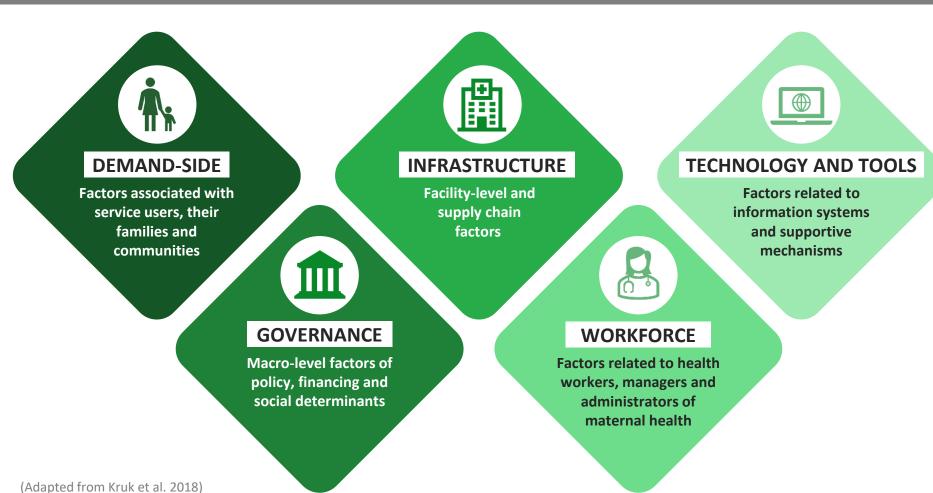
Note: Please refer to annexure for more details on this framework.

# CHALLENGES TO QUALITY ENHANCEMENT



#### The foundational levers of health systems present unique challenges for maternal health quality.

#### Foundational Levers for Quality in Maternal Healthcare



## Lack of health information and poor agency to demand better quality care lead to low utilisation of quality maternal healthcare.



**Demand-side** 

challenges to quality maternal healthcare

Low awareness about quality and entitlements

Low awareness about quality standards in maternal healthcare and relevant schemes and programmes among women are leading to difficulties in navigating the maternal health system (Hamal et al. 2020).

Strong influence of service providers on quality perception

Provider behaviour has a significant effect on satisfaction of clients, indicating a highly person-dependent experience of perceived quality of maternal healthcare, with challenges in regulation (Vyas et al. 2022).

Low agency and expressed need for quality care

Low expressed need for quality maternal healthcare stemming from lack of awareness and agency, and low expectations from health services (Roder-DeWan et al. 2019).

Vulnerability and marginalisation affecting access to quality maternal care

Vulnerable groups, e.g., tribal population, are less likely to use maternal health services owing to discrimination and economic inequality (Chauhan and Jungari 2020; Mishra et al. 2021).

Poor utilisation of, and access to quality maternal healthcare

## Inadequate regulations and low prioritisation of quality control are detrimental to maternal health quality.



Governance

related challenges to quality maternal healthcare

Weak mandate for QA in the private sector

No mandates for quality accreditation in the private sector except for the Clinical Establishments Act; this includes no mandate for QA in maternal health among private sector facilities (Oxfam India 2021).

Ineffective supervisory mechanisms at facility level

Lack of proper monitoring and supervision, including no requirement for maternal death reviews at smaller facilities (with less than 500 deliveries per year), lack of mechanisms to ensure supervision (Hamal et al 2020; McFadden et al 2020).

Inadequate utilisation of funds for quality initiatives

Low allocation of funds towards the improvement of maternal health quality, and low prioritisation of fund utilisation for QI initiatives at the facility level (Hamal et al 2020).

Poor implementation of system-level accountability measures

Insufficient systems and legislation resulting in low accountability among stakeholders at all levels (Afulani and Moyer 2019).

Low motivation to provide high quality maternal care

#### Poor infrastructure and supply-side issues negatively impact the quality of maternal healthcare.



**Infrastructure** related challenges to quality maternal healthcare

**Limited infrastructure impeding** quality service delivery

Shortages of health facilities in rural and remote areas, and limited infrastructure needed to provide quality maternal health results in delays in receiving appropriate care (Hamal et al. 2020).

Lack of basic amenities at the facility level

11% of PHCs don't have regular water supply, 8% don't have electricity; only 24 hospital beds are available per 10,000 women in India (Kumar and Reshmi 2022).

Shortage of medical supplies and equipment

Lack of adequate blood supplies and equipment like ultrasonography machines affect the quality of care, further exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic (Hamal et al. 2020; Kumar et al. 2020).

**Facilities** unable to provide high quality maternal healthcare

#### Inadequate skills among health workers and lack of incentives lead to low prioritisation of quality maternal services.



Workforce

related challenges to quality maternal healthcare

**Shortage of maternal health workers** 

India has a 74% shortfall of obstetricians and gynaecologists at CHCs, and 20-30% ANM posts vacant in PHCs, resulting in overburdened health workers (MoHFW 2021; Karan et al. 2021).

Poor implementation of training professionals in quality

Despite national health policies, training on quality maternal care is either not implemented or poorly implemented in many states (Munshi et al. 2022).

Poor attitudes and lack of sensitivity/respect

Prevalence of mistreatment and violence during childbirth by maternal health service providers in India is a challenge and is more prevalent among marginalised groups (Mayra et al. 2021).

Lack of incentives to provide quality maternal healthcare

There is limited clarity on how quality is incentivised in pay-for-performance measures under HWC guidelines. Remuneration for frontline health workers is often delayed, leading to low motivation (Asgari-Jirhandeh et al. 2021; Sharma et al. 2021).

Low prioritisation of maternal health quality among health workers

#### Inefficient data systems and poor quality of data hinder decision-making and governance.



**Technology** 

related challenges to quality maternal healthcare

Fragmented data systems

Multiple, disparate sources of maternal health data with poor integration hinders decision-making and monitoring of quality maternal health (Priyadarshini and Joseph 2021).

Poor quality of data in information systems

Inaccurate data collection, poor capabilities of data entry operators, and lack of oversight result in low quality data in information systems, including maternal health system (Lemma et al. 2020).

Inadequate institutionalisation of feedback mechanisms

Facility-level concurrent monitoring of maternal health quality and client feedback cycles in public systems are reliant on defunct committees such as MAS and RKS; Moreover action taken based on these committees are ad hoc and not systematic (Priyadarshini and Kumar 2020; Selvaraj et al. 2022).

Inadequate information to support governance of maternal health quality

# SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH QUALITY



## Quality maternal health services are enabled by three key components of solutions: capacity building, upgrading infrastructure, and monitoring.

#### Solution landscape for quality of maternal healthcare in India

#### Components of quality improvement...



#### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Public and private sector

Upskilling health workers on respectable and appropriate maternal health services, in addition to technical skills so as to enable better quality of care



#### INFRASTRUCTURAL UPGRADATION

Bolstering maternal healthcare infrastructure, including medical equipment and supplies, in line with standards and guidelines



### MONITORING AND FEEDBACK

Strengthening the systemic monitoring and client feedback mechanisms through awareness generation, enabling demand for quality services

#### ...enabling quality services



#### **SERVICE PROVISION**

Strengthening quality elements of maternal health services across maternity lifecycle

Eg. Safe Delivery App using the Safe Childbirth Checklist

#### ...supported by technology integration

**Virtual training** e.g. Mobile Academy; Data analytics e.g. ANMOL; Standardisation; Diagnostic tools e.g. e-Partographs; Decision-making tools; Patient management systems e.g. MCTS

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### Capacity building solutions in the public sector focus on strengthening skills for facility-based maternal healthcare.

#### Illustrative examples of solutions for quality maternal healthcare in India

#### **Solution Components included Facility coverage** Dakshata **Public Capacity building** ✓ Comprehensive intervention package by MoHFW, based on Safe Childbirth Checklist ✓ Aims to have competent, skilled providers at high delivery load facilities (MoHFW 2015a) Daksh Skills Lab for RMNCH+A services **Public Capacity building** ✓ Practical skill development of maternal health workers (ANMs and superintendent nurses) on ANC and intrapartum care ✓ Aim to develop skills of providers and enable better quality of maternal care

(MoHFW 2015b)

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## However, capacity building solutions for the public and private sector can differ in their scope, from facility-level to community-level skills.

#### Illustrative examples of solutions for quality maternal healthcare in India

#### **Solution Facility coverage Components included Nursing Training Public Capacity building** ✓ Upskilling programme focused on practical training in maternal healthcare for nursing assistants in Karnataka ✓ Aims to train assistants to become frontline maternal **Private** healthcare workers (D'Souza 2022) **Mobile Academy Public Capacity building** ✓ Mobile-based Reproductive Maternal Neonatal and Child health refresher training course for ASHA workers ✓ Aims to improve knowledge and quality of engagement **Private** (Chamberlain et al. 2021

Note: denotes technology-enabled solutions

#### Solutions also incorporate monitoring and feedback in addition to capacity building, to strengthen the health system for quality maternal care.

#### Illustrative examples of solutions for quality maternal healthcare in India

#### **Solution Facility coverage Components included Midwifery Training Public Capacity building** ✓ Capacity building of nurse practitioners to build a cadre of trained midwives in public system ✓ Focus on quality maternal care in curriculum and certification Monitoring and feedback ✓ Aligned and integrated with LaQshya (MoHFW 2018) **AMANAT-Jyoti Nurse Mentoring Program Public Capacity building** ✓ Initiative by CARE India in Bihar ✓ Focus on improving quality of obstetric and newborn care through onsite mentoring of, and by, facility-based nurses and Monitoring and feedback

(Joudeh et al. 2021

Note: ( ) denotes technology-enabled solutions

**ANMs** 

#### Yet other solutions enable better quality of maternal care through facility-level improvements.

#### Illustrative examples of solutions for quality maternal healthcare in India

#### Solution **Components included Facility coverage Better Birth Programme Public Capacity building** ✓ QI initiative focused on facility-level improvement in Uttar Pradesh ✓ Birth attendants and managers at 60 rural health centers **Monitoring and feedback Service provision** coached on the use of Safe Childbirth Checklist (Kara et al. 2017) **Born Healthy Programme Public Capacity building** ✓ Proof-of-concept programme by Jhpiego introduced evidencebased ANC model focusing on nutrition, infection and quality of care Monitoring and feedback Service provision ✓ Data integrated with government HMIS (Jhpiego 2018)

Note: ( ) denotes technology-enabled solutions

### Technology can play a key role in facilitating capacity building and monitoring, as well as service provision.

#### Illustrative examples of solutions for quality maternal healthcare in India

#### Solution **Facility coverage Components included** Alliance for Saving Mothers and Newborns **Public Capacity building** ✓ Package of mHealth technologies to support peripartum management ✓ Includes e-partograph and SCC among other tools Monitoring and feedback **Service provision** ✓ Implemented in 81 facilities across Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (Usmanova et al. 2020) Mera Aspataal **Public Capacity building** ✓ Mobile-based patient feedback mechanism for quality improvement ✓ Applicable for public and empanelled private facilities Monitoring and feedback **Service provision**

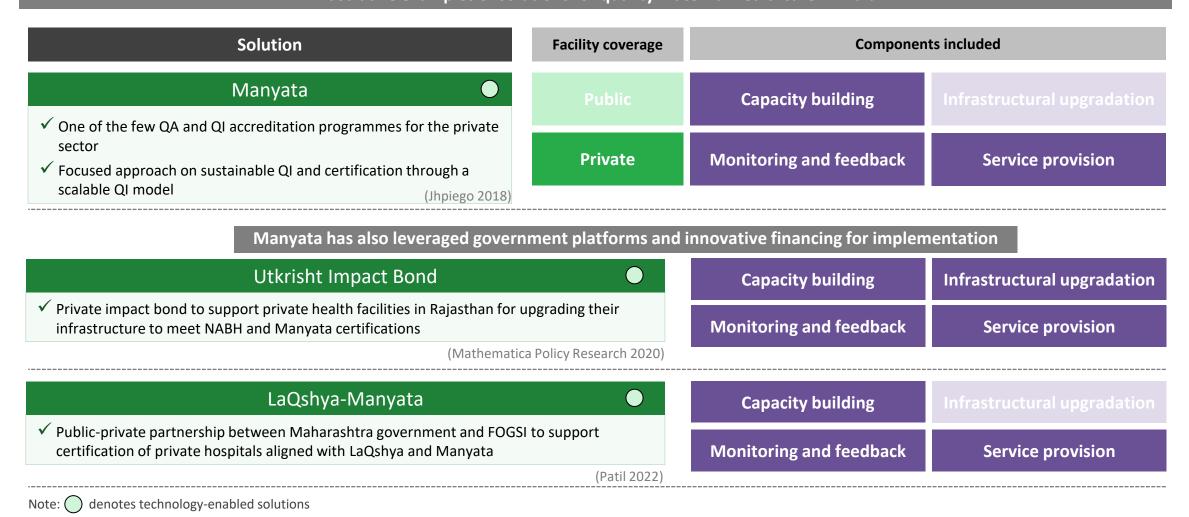
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Note: O denotes technology-enabled solutions

✓ Aligns with MyGov platform of GoI

### Manyata, implemented through multiple models, focuses exclusively on improving the quality of maternal healthcare in the private sector.

#### Illustrative examples of solutions for quality maternal healthcare in India



# CONCLUSION



### Mainstreaming of quality in India is a tailwind to strengthen quality of maternal health going forward.

There is a growing dialogue and action towards **prioritising quality in India**, in addition to **an emerging focus on QI and QA in maternal healthcare**, in the public and private sectors.

The government is looking to incentivise quality, with a greater recognition of the need for QA mechanisms across all levels in the health system. For example, pay-for-performance measures are applied to the primary care team in AB-HWCs. Since 2017, India has also been part of the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Quality of Care Network), a broad-based partnership of committed governments, implementation partners and funding agencies working to deliver the vision that 'every pregnant woman and new-born receives good quality care throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period'.

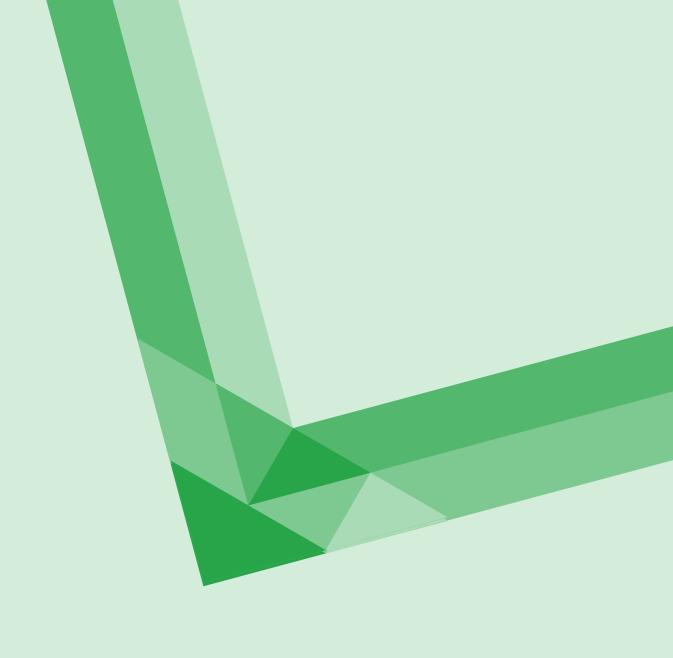
Insurance providers are looking at quality as an important criteria for hospital empanelment and cashless transfer facilities, to promote QA.

Insurers also offer financial incentives such as higher reimbursement rates for providers with recognised quality accreditations and certifications.

The **private sector is getting more involved in defining, enabling and monitoring quality** of maternal health care, with a rise in private sector solutions such as Manyata and the Private Maternity Care – Quality Toolkit. In order to improve the quality of maternity services to reduce the maternal mortality and strengthen health systems for safer childbirth, FOGSI collaborated with NABH in 2022 to jointly assess accredit maternity service providers.

With a shift towards greater recognition of quality in maternal health, indicators of maternal health are expected to improve in the coming years.

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# **ANNEXURE**



### Achieving high-quality maternal health needs action on the foundations of healthcare, to ensure appropriate processes of care and quality outcomes.

#### Framework for quality in maternal healthcare

#### **FOUNDATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM LEVERS**

#### **Demand-side**

 Clients of maternal healthcare, their families and communities

#### Governance

- Leadership, policies and financing
- Social determinants

#### Infrastructure

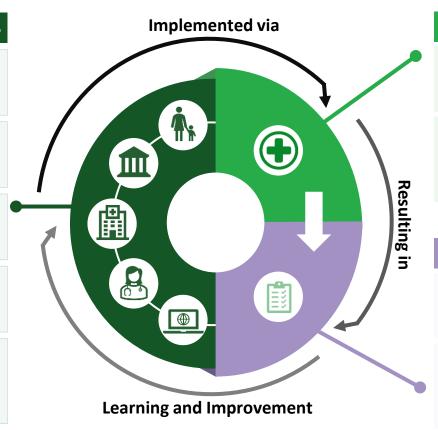
- Health facilities
- Equipment and supplies

#### Workforce

- Maternal health workers
- Planners and managers

#### **Technology and tools**

- Information systems
- Use of data
- Feedback mechanisms



#### **PROCESSES OF CARE**

#### **Competent care and systems**

- Evidence-based effective care
- Capable systems

#### Positive client experience, constituting:

- Respect
- Client focused care
- Enabling client (women) feedback

#### **QUALITY IMPACTS**

#### Better health

Client outcomes

#### **Confidence in system**

- Satisfaction and trust
- Care uptake

#### **Economic benefit**

- Cognitive ability, work productivity
- Financial risk protection
- Health system efficiency

(Adapted from Kruk et al. 2018 and Quality, Equity, Dignity framework by WHO 2018b)

### The foundational levers encompass all the different stakeholders, platforms and tools working together in the health system.

#### Foundational levers of the health system



#### **Population**

- Maternal health needs and preferences of clients
- Knowledge of maternal health and health literacy of individuals, families and communities
- Cultural norms related to maternal health



#### Governance

- Political commitment for maternal health quality
- Regulations, standards, norms, and policies for the public and private sector
- Architectural frameworks for quality control
- Financial policies, fund allocation and utilisation
- Learning mechanisms and mandate for quality



#### Infrastructure

- Number, distribution and types of maternal health facilities
- Roles of public-private system in maternal health
- Systems for referral, emergency services
- Community outreach



#### Workforce

- Number, distribution and types of maternal health workforce
- Skills and capacities of health workers, laboratory workers, planners, managers
- Training in ethics and people-centered care



#### **Technology and Tools**

- Information systems for maternal health
- Use of data for quality maternal healthcare
- Feedback mechanisms for maternal health quality

(Adapted from Kruk et al. 2018 and Quality, Equity, Dignity framework by WHO 2018b)

Note: Clients refers to users and receivers of maternal healthcare services.

### Enabled by foundational levers, competent care and better user experience lead to better health outcomes and larger economic benefits.

#### Processes of care and quality impacts in the health system

#### **Processes of care**



### Competent care and systems

- Systematic assessment, correct diagnosis, appropriate treatment based on evidence
- Counselling and referral systems
- Integration with other policies
- Population health management



### Positive client experience

- Client treated with respect and dignity
- Privacy and confidentiality maintained
- Non-discriminatory treatment
- Clear communication from providers
- Affordability of maternal healthcare
- Client choice and autonomy

#### **Quality Impacts**



#### **Better Health**

- Better maternal health outcomes such as MMR
- Lower incidence of maternal complications and morbidity
- Increased wellbeing and better quality of life

# (2)

#### **Confidence in system**

- Increased satisfaction and greater trust among clients
- Increased utilisation and uptake of quality maternal health services



#### **Economic benefit**

- Increased cognitive abilities among children born to mothers receiving quality maternal care
- Higher work productivity among clients
- Reduction in costs of maternal healthcare
- Financial risk protection for clients and their families

(Adapted from Kruk et al. 2018 and Quality, Equity, Dignity framework by WHO 2018b) Note: Clients refers to users and receivers of maternal healthcare services.

