

How can you help?

- ☞ Be alert to families who already have daughters:
Studies show that chances of sex selection and elimination of daughters are higher when the families already have one or more daughters.
- ☞ Track births in your institution/clinic to monitor worsening or improvement in sex ratio at birth
- ☞ Provide information about erring doctors to the Appropriate Authority
- ☞ Form informal groups - "champions on the issue"
 - Motivate colleagues to hold discussions on sex selection
 - Help to form groups of like-minded doctors to stimulate action on the issue such as the "doctors against sex selection" group in Mumbai, who can provide information and engage in awareness activities of NGOs
- ☞ Create awareness among the medical community
 - Volunteer Monitors
 - Traveling Faculty
- ☞ Undertake family counselling wherever possible
- ☞ Create community level awareness through NGOs and clients
- ☞ Build awareness among 'doctors of tomorrow'
 - Medical students
 - Interns, house officers



Doctors
for Daughters

Making Your Clinic & Hospital PCPNDT Act Compliant

The pre-conception and pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of sex Selection) Act, 1994 is both prohibitory and regulatory in nature.

- ☞ Prohibits pre-conception sex selection and regulates fetal sex determination
- ☞ Regulates use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques like ultrasound
- ☞ Restricts sale of ultrasound machines
- ☞ Advertisement for sex selection is punishable

**Violation of the Provisions
of the PCPNDT Act
is a Punishable Offence**

Key steps for complying with the PCPNDT Act

- ☞ Register the facility (including the machine) and display the registration certificate. Every clinic/facility where a mobile machine is used has to be registered.
- ☞ Inform the appropriate Authority of any change in the machine, facility or qualified staff
- ☞ Maintain transparent and complete records
- ☞ Preserve records for up to two years. They have to be made available at the time of inspection

Under what circumstances can pre-natal diagnostics techniques be offered to pregnant women?

- ☞ Age > 35 years: Since it is known that after the age of 35 years the incidence of congenital foetal malformations increases.
- ☞ Previous two or more spontaneous abortions/foetal loss.
- ☞ Exposure to potential teratogenic agents such as radiation, drugs, infection, chemicals.
- ☞ Family history of mental retardation or physical deformities such as, spasticity or any other genetic disease.

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has given a list of 23 indications for which ultrasonography can be offered to pregnant women. These conditions are listed in the PCPNDT Act.

What should ultrasound & imaging clinics do to be Act compliant?

Display of Information at the Clinic

Registration certificate, copy of the Act and a display board in English and a local language saying
'DISCLOSURE OF THE SEX OF THE FOETUS IS PROHIBITED UNDER LAW' RULE 17 (1)

Maintain Records as Prescribed by Law

☞ Mandatory Records

Register showing in serial order

- Name & Addresses of men or women given genetic counselling and/or subjected to prenatal diagnostic procedure or test.
- Names of their spouses or fathers;
- Date on which they first reported for such counselling

☞ For Every case

- The referrals of the doctor recommending the scan
- A declaration by the doctor that he/she has neither detected nor disclosed the sex of the foetus to anybody in any manner
- A declaration from the pregnant women regarding her non-interest in knowing the sex of the foetus

Maintain forms as prescribed by Rules of the Act

- Maintain the Forms D (Records for genetic Counselling Centre), E (Records for genetic Laboratory) and F (Record for the pregnant women by ultrasound clinics, etc)
- Multiple copies of forms can be photocopied from the PCPNDT Handbook on Act and Rules
- Send complete report based on above forms statutorily by 5th of the succeeding month (for the previous month) to the Appropriate Authority or any officer so authorized.

Other Medical Records

☞ Other records that are kept by the clinic include:

- Case Record
- Forms of consent for invasive procedures (form G)
- Laboratory results, microscopic pictures & sonographic plates or slides
- Recommendations & letters from referring doctor