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

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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

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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 of 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