

### Dignity: WOMAN focused Standards (13)

There is an **expressed institutional commitment** that: every woman and newborn will be treated with respect and dignity; no woman or newborn will be subjected to mistreatment, physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination, neglect, detainment, extortion, or denial of services; and no care or procedures will be performed without informed consent.

Every woman has **access to her health information** and receives information about her care. The reasons for interventions and outcomes are clearly explained, enabling her to make informed choices about the services that she receives.

**Communication** with all service users is respectful. For example, women are addressed by name, unknown staff members identify themselves, and the roles of various staff members are clearly communicated.

There is **shared decision making** for all services related to pregnancy, birth, and newborn care.

Every woman is offered an **orientation** to the birth center's model of care and a tour of the facility.

There is a mechanism for **home visits**, either routinely or as needed.

**Confidentiality** is respected.

The environment offers adequate **privacy** based on each woman's preferences.

The midwifery center participates in interactive **community activities**.

Every woman is informed about the benefits of **supporting physiological processes**, such as drug-free comfort and pain relief methods to support normal labor.

Every woman is informed of the benefits and encouraged to have **continuous physical support** by someone of her choosing. This may include family members and traditional healers to accompany her during labor and delivery.

Each woman is asked about in her **cultural traditions and spiritual expectations** pertaining to pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care for herself and her newborn. These traditions and expectations will be supported, as long as they are safe.

Every woman receives **support** to strengthen her capability during childbirth, including childbirth education and comfort measures.