Chapter 3: Client Education and Counseling
Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, participants should be able to:

- Provide sexual and reproductive health information to clients seeking VMMC
- Describe the importance of group education and counseling in VMMC services and the key messages given
- Educate and counsel clients and/or parents (or guardians) about the PrePex procedure
- Describe the informed consent process
Group Education

- Supports individual counseling services
- Gives clients basic information about VMMC before individual counseling
- Allows counselors to work with clients/their parents on specific issues related to MC
- Allows the first counseling session to be shorter
- Considers local cultural context when providing group education
Key Messages

- Definition of MC
- Benefits and risks of VMMC
- Surgical vs. PrePex VMMC
- Partial protection
- Confidentiality and privacy of clients
- Basics of HIV and the importance of HIV testing and counseling
• Need to return to the facility for follow-up visits
• Wound care following the circumcision procedure
• HIV prevention methods
• Condom use demonstration
• Gender-based violence
• Infertility and other reproductive health concerns
Individual Counseling

- Detailed information about VMMC and HIV
- How the procedure is conducted using the device
- HIV testing and counseling, if the client opts for testing
- Appropriate post-test counseling
- What to expect after the PrePex procedure
- Informed consent after appropriate information
Informed Consent Key Points

- Plain language description of procedure and its risks and benefits
- HIV infection and how to prevent it
- PrePex device as one option; surgery the other
- Need to avoid activities that might displace the device
- Need to return should a displacement occur
- Self-removal of the device discouraged
- Need to return after one week for device removal
Important!

- Check that the client is able to understand and comprehend the information given.
- Ensure that all clients eligible for circumcision give written consent for the procedure.
- Where required, a legal guardian should sign on behalf of a minor.
Activity 3.1 Role Plays

- Read the scenarios in **Activity 3.1** in the participant handbook.
- In groups of three, take turns acting as the counselor, the client, and an observer, and practice counseling using the information in the role plays.
- Refer to the checklist on individual counseling on PrePex circumcision in the checklist section of the participant handbook.
Summary

- Providers should have general knowledge of the sexual and reproductive health needs of clients seeking VMMC.
- Group education is used to support individual counseling.
- Providers have a duty to:
  - Ensure that voluntary and informed consent is obtained from each client before the procedure.
  - Maintain confidentiality.
  - Provide services without discrimination.
Thank you!