WHO recommendations: non-clinical interventions to reduce unnecessary caesarean sections

Executive summary

Web annex 1: Strategies to reduce caesarean sections identified in the scoping review
Web annex 2: Description of included interventions
Web annex 3: GRADE evidence tables
Web annex 4: CERQual evidence tables

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Caesarean section rates have been steadily increasing worldwide over the last few decades above levels that cannot be considered medically necessary. This trend has not been accompanied by significant maternal or perinatal benefits. In recognition of the urgent need to address this sustained and unprecedented rise in the use of caesarean section, WHO has produced evidence-based guidance on non-clinical interventions specifically designed to reduce unnecessary caesarean section. These recommendations can be useful to health-care professionals responsible for developing regional, national and local health protocols and policies, as well as obstetricians, midwives, nurses, general medical practitioners, managers of maternal and child health programmes, and public health policy-makers in all settings and countries where increasing use of caesarean section has been identified as a problem.

Recommendations

Educational interventions for women

Clinical guidelines and second opinion

Clinical guidelines, audit and feedback
Collaborative midwifery-obstetrician model of care

Financial strategies

### Related articles in scientific journals

- [Non-clinical interventions for reducing unnecessary caesarean section: Cochrane review](https://extranet.who.int/rhl/guidelines/who-recommendations-non-clinical-interventions-reduce-unnecessary-caesarean-sections)
- [Women's and communities' views of targeted educational interventions to reduce unnecessary caesarean section: a qualitative evidence synthesis](https://extranet.who.int/rhl/guidelines/who-recommendations-non-clinical-interventions-reduce-unnecessary-caesarean-sections)
- [Non-clinical interventions to reduce unnecessary caesarean section targeted at organisations, facilities and systems: Systematic review of qualitative studies](https://extranet.who.int/rhl/guidelines/who-recommendations-non-clinical-interventions-reduce-unnecessary-caesarean-sections)

### Related publications

- [Robson Classification: Implementation Manual](https://extranet.who.int/rhl/guidelines/who-recommendations-non-clinical-interventions-reduce-unnecessary-caesarean-sections)
- [More documents on maternal health](https://extranet.who.int/rhl/guidelines/who-recommendations-non-clinical-interventions-reduce-unnecessary-caesarean-sections)

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