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## Evaluation of Midwifery Service Standards during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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### ABSTRACT

During the COVID-19 pandemic, health services became a burden for the community. The number of cases of Covid-19 transmission made people reluctant to come to health facilities. Health workers are encouraged to continue carrying out their roles to adapt and provide optimal service to patients. Likewise, midwives are advised to continue to provide maternal and child health services by complying with health protocols. Based on data reported by the Central IBI in June 2020, 974 of 9,296 PMBs were closed, maternal and child health services were temporarily suspended from PMBs who continued to provide services. Most of them did not offer midwifery services following standard health protocols. This study was conducted to describe the evaluation of midwifery service standards during the COVID-19 pandemic. The research design used a cross-sectional with chi-square statistical test to determine the standard practice of midwifery services during the covid-19 pandemic, which was analyzed descriptively. Sampling with quota sampling, with a total of 30 respondents. The research instrument used a questionnaire. The results of this study indicate that in the implementation of midwifery services according to standard health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, most of which were 53% carried out according to pregnancy, 67% of deliveries were not carried out according to health protocols, almost 90% of postpartum & BBL services were carried out accordingly, and 100% of family planning services are carried out according to health protocols. The conclusion is that most midwives carry out standard midwifery services during the covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Midwifery; Covid-19; Service

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## INTRODUCTION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, health services became a burden for the community. The number of cases of Covid-19 transmission made people reluctant to come to health facilities. Health workers are encouraged to continue carrying out their roles to adapt and provide optimal service to patients. Likewise, midwives are advised to continue to provide maternal and child health services by complying with health protocols. Based on data reported by the Central IBI in June 2020, 974 of 9,296 PMBs were closed, maternal and child health services were temporarily suspended from PMBs who continued to provide services. Most of them did not offer midwifery services following standard health protocols. This study was conducted to describe the evaluation of midwifery service standards during the COVID-19 pandemic. The research design used a cross-sectional with chi-square statistical test to determine the standard practice of midwifery services during the covid-19 pandemic, which was analyzed descriptively. Sampling with quota sampling, with a total of 30 respondents. The research instrument used a questionnaire. The results of this study indicate that in the implementation of midwifery services according to standard health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, most of which were 53% carried out according to pregnancy, 67% of deliveries were not carried out according to health protocols, almost 90% of postpartum & BBL services were carried out accordingly, and 100% of family planning services are carried out according to health protocols. The conclusion is that most midwives carry out standard midwifery services during the covid-19 pandemic breastfeed immediately after giving birth and successfully provide exclusive breastfeeding correctly.

## METHODS

This research is quantitative research with a survey method, with the design used being cross-sectional. The data used are primary data. The instrument used is a questionnaire. In this study, respondents were asked questions about knowledge of standard pregnancy services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the practice of midwives during the COVID-19 pandemic. The population in this study were midwives in Sidoarjo Regency. The sample in this study was midwives who had PMB (Praktik Mandiri Midwife) and were active/serving patients during the COVID-19 pandemic and was willing to be respondents. The number of samples in this study was 30 respondents. Data collection was done by using a questionnaire. The instrument used for data collection has been tested for validity with Pearson Product Moment and reliability with Consistency Chronbach's Alpha. The validity test value is 0.62, and the reliability test value is 0.68, so that this questionnaire is valid and reliable. The data analysis used was Fisher's exact test with a significance level of  $P < 0.05$  because the chi-square test did not meet the requirements.

## RESULT

Data collection was carried out from December 1, 2020, until December 7, 2020. The following are the results of the research obtained.

Table 1. Bivariable analysis of midwifery service practices during the COVID-19 pandemic

Knowledge of midwifery service standards	Implementation of Standard Practice for midwifery services during the COVID-19 pandemic							
	Pregnancy		Labor		Postpartum & BBL		KB	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Good</b>	No	6 (20%)	4 (13.3)	4 (13.3)	12 (40%)	4 (13.3%)	8 (26%)	4 (13.3%)
<b>Enough</b>	6 (20%)	3 (10%)	8 (26.%)	10 (33.3%)	6 (20%)	3 (10%)	8(26%)	3 (10%)
<b>Not Enough</b>	1 (13.3%)	4 (13.3%)	1 (13.3%)	3 (10%)	2 (6.6%)	4 (13.3%)	4 (13.3%)	3 (10)
<b>Total</b>	17 (56.6%)	13 (43.3%)	13 (43.3%)	17 (56.6%)	20 (66%)	11 (36%)	20 (66%)	10 (33%)

From the table, it states that most of the midwives who carry out the standard practice of pregnancy services during the COVID-19 pandemic have good knowledge, most of the midwives who do not carry out the common method of childbirth services during the COVID-19 pandemic have sufficient knowledge, most of the midwives who carry out the standard practice of services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Postpartum mothers and BBL during the covid-19 pandemic are well informed, and most midwives who carry out standard practice of family planning services during the covid-19 pandemic are well informed. From the fisher's exact test results, the P value = 0.005, which means that there is a relationship between knowledge and knowledge with the practice of midwifery services during the covid 19 pandemic.

## DISCUSSION

The Indonesian Ministry of Health strives to continue to provide health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in midwifery services. By issuing midwifery service standards in the 2020 covid-19 pandemic era, with the hope that midwifery service practices can still be adequately provided during the pandemic.

The study results stated that most midwives had good knowledge but did not fully implement the standard practice of midwifery services following health protocols during the pandemic. The implementation of good behavior does not always follow good knowledge<sup>2</sup>.

A theory of reasoned action says that attitudes influence behavior through a conscientious and reasoned decision-making process. Behavior is determined not only by general attitudes but also by specific attitudes towards something. Behavior is also influenced by subjective norms, namely our beliefs about what others want us to do. Attitudes towards behavior and subjective norms form an intention or intention to behave in a certain way<sup>6,7</sup>. During the covid-19 pandemic and facing a new era of adaptation, health services must continue to run optimally, safe for patients and midwives with various adjustments based on guidelines for handling covid or health protocols.

Although midwives have good knowledge, control over behavior can also affect interest in behavior<sup>6</sup>. This is not all midwifery service standards during the COVID-19 pandemic carried out by midwives. Although it is assumed that knowledge and attitudes are evaluative predispositions that largely determine individual behavior, knowledge and behavior are often very different. This is because behavior is influenced by knowledge or attitude alone and various other external factors<sup>6,8</sup>.

Several reasons emerged from medical personnel, especially midwives in providing health services during the pandemic, such as restrictions on movement and contact with patients, fear of infection, and the lack of medical equipment such as personal protective equipment (PPE) as an effort to protect themselves, thus making midwives have several reasons to not implementing the standard of midwifery services during the covid-19 pandemic<sup>9</sup>

According to midwifery education, the provision of information by midwives through interactive media forms is very important. Data can be provided regarding prevention needed to prevent the transmission of covid-19 . By implementing health protocols, following service standards can carry out midwifery services during the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>10</sup>. Midwives can provide assistance by closely monitoring through communication tools, for example, in the form of telephone or WhatsApp, regarding complaints experienced by patients and psychological health services during the covid-19 pandemic <sup>11</sup>.

The study results indicate that socialization from the relevant agencies regarding pregnancy service standards during the COVID-19 pandemic is still needed. Relevant agencies must pay attention to the concerns experienced by midwives in carrying out pregnancy services so that all obstacles can be resolved. This is important so that midwives can carry out benefits according to standards in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>4</sup>.

Midwives also play a role in conducting Early Detection & Rapid Assessment of KIA Risti Cases and being a PONED team, providing midwifery care and referrals to pregnant, maternity, and postpartum women if needed, including Covid-19 cases. Midwives in Villages and Midwives Independent Practice Places carry out Early Detection of Risks in Pregnant, Maternity and Postpartum Mothers followed by referrals to higher health facilities according to the conditions found, including Covid-19 cases<sup>12</sup>.

Midwifery services in the era of adaptation to new habits are carried out by taking into account the prevention of COVID-19 transmission for mothers, babies, and health workers. The implementation of antenatal and postpartum visits was preceded by an appointment / teleregistration through communication media to look for risk factors for Covid-19. Health protocols must also always be considered in every midwifery service. Midwives recommend strengthening the ability of mothers and families ability to understand the MCH Handbook to recognize danger signs and apply care during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum & newborn and family planning in daily life.

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Midwives should carry out midwifery care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period according to service standards during the COVID-19 pandemic and constantly improve their knowledge to create quality services.

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