



# High Desert Health System POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 661  
VERSION: 1

## **SUBJECT: 2014 FAMILY PLANNING - NON-COERCION POLICY**

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**PURPOSE:** To ensure that all employees and contract staff involved in the provision of family planning services are aware of Federal law and High Desert Health System (HDHS) policy regarding non-coercion for family planning services.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of HDHS to ensure that all usage of family planning services by any patient, participant, client, or customer be solely on a voluntary basis. Individuals must not be subject to coercion to receive services, or to use any particular method of family planning, or other clinic services.

All employees and contract staff involved in the provision of family planning services must be informed that they may be subject to prosecution under Federal Law, if they coerce or endeavor to coerce any patient, participant, client, or customer who presents for family planning services in a HDHS clinic to undergo an abortion or sterilization (Tubal Ligation, Vasectomy) procedure.

Coercion is defined as, "To force to act or think in a certain way – to compel, to dominate, restrain, or control forcibly; to bring about by force.

### **POLICY GUIDELINES:**

All employees and contract staff involved in the provision of Family Planning services are required to sign an employee agreement which acknowledges reading and understanding this policy (see attached). New employees or contract staff will sign a copy of this policy as part of their orientation. All signed copies of the policy will be kept by the employee's supervisor in the employee's departmental file.

### **REFERENCES:**

Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs (OPA)  
Program Requirements Title X

California Family Health Council (CFHC)

California State Office of Family Planning (OFP)

<b>POLICY NO:</b> 661	<b>SUBJECT:</b> 2014 FAMILY PLANNING - NON-COERCION POLICY	<b>Page 2 of 2</b>
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California Department of Public Health Office of Family Planning (FPACT)

Patient Education and Counseling Protocol, Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor –UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California

Approved By: Beryl Brooks (ADMR,COMP AMB HEALTH CARE CENTER), Ruth Oren (CHIEF PHYSICIAN I ANESTHESIOLOGY), Susan Knapp (CHIEF NURSING OFFICER I)	
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