

ViC

Virtual Contraceptive Consultation

➤ What is ViC?

Virtual Contraceptive Consultation (ViC) is an online learning platform for evidence-based family planning in Eastern Europe and Central Asia provided free of charge by UNFPA to strengthen the capacities of service providers. Targeted at family-planning providers at all levels (primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare), as well as residents and medical students, it offers consistent, high-quality training in order to minimise the conveying of misinformation, out-dated information, and biased personal opinions during family-planning consultations. Developed by UNFPA's Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the East European Institute for Reproductive Health, ViC is based on newest international standards and guidelines.

➤ Why is it necessary?

ViC aims to build capacity to deliver client-oriented quality services based on modern international quality-of-care standards and human-rights principles. Through modern distance-learning technology, it enables physicians in the region – who are generally seen by the public as a trusted source of information on contraception – to provide evidence-based, reliable information and family-planning counselling to their clients.

➤ How does it work?

A web-based learning platform (<http://www.vic.eeirh.org/>) that is scalable, highly customisable and available in numerous regional languages, in addition to the generic English and Russian platform, ViC provides a flexible tool-set to support both full online courses and blended learning. Its modular design allows it to be closely tailored to meet the needs of any country, in partnership with key stakeholders (e.g. main medical universities, accreditation bodies), thus enabling the tool to be institutionalised based on national accreditation and certification requirements.

Each ViC course is structured into three main sections: Learn, Practice, and Test. After completing the Learn section, which contains technical information on family planning from evidence-based sources, users quiz themselves in the Test section on contraceptive methods and other family-planning subjects. The Practice section then asks learners to apply their knowledge in interactive simulations of real-life clinical scenarios in which users must follow the correct steps of a contraceptive consultation and propose the best contraceptive method based on the anonymous personal data, medical history, sexual and reproductive history, physical examination, and paraclinical investigations presented. Clinical situations of various degrees of complexity can thus be practised in a safe environment with instant feedback.

For more information, please contact:

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