



In 2014 the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) launched its Standards of Care for Obstetric and Neonatal Health and for Gynaecology at the EU Parliament. These standards define a roadmap of quality service underpinned by clinical governance, safety and patient experience. Each standard is set on the best available evidence and is supported by a set of quality outcome indicators to benchmark services. This is the only way to fulfil our goal of providing equitable and safe services with the best possible outcomes for women and their babies. There is still a clear disparity in accessibility to women's health services, and in the quality of care even in regions within the same country and in clinical outcomes. The significant variations have a huge impact on women's lives, and on their families. Such inequitable access to the delivery of healthcare systems has an economic and societal impact and there is therefore a compelling need to improve the delivery and quality of care.

EBCOG began its formal cooperation with UNFPA EECA in 2015. Both organisations are committed to seeking improvements in the quality and standard of health care. EBCOG has been privileged to have had the enormous support of the UNFPA and the Russian Society of Ob/Gyn (RSOG) to translate the Standards of Care translated into Russian, in order to make these standards more widely accessible to EECA countries. The Standards are ready for implementation and will be officially launched on 20th May, during the European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Torino. Although the Standards were developed for Europe, they will make a huge difference to the quality of care provision in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. During 2015, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding in which EBCOG undertook to assist the UNFPA with both capacity building and knowledge sharing via EBCOG's standards of care.

Our engagement with UNFPA will continue in future to ensure that the Standards are fully implemented and monitored within EECA countries and that the quality of care in these countries has been quantifiably improved. EBCOG is very grateful to the UNFPA and the RSOG for their commitment to helping improving the quality of care for women and their babies in all EECA countries.

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