



Health Providers

Individual Practitioners



Introduction

In many countries, individual private practitioners make up the majority of private health facilities. These are typically solo practitioners operating out of a small clinic, or possibly a home office. This set of questions is intended for these owner/practitioners. The interview should capture information about health services offered and fees charged, provider and client characteristics, and business practices as well as constraints. Note if/how the answers to questions vary by sex of provider.

Questions—Clinical

- What types of services do you offer? [Probe for specific health services and prices]
- How many clients do you see per day? What percentage are women? Men?
- What challenges or barriers do you face in delivering services to your clients? [Examples: payment, access to supplies, equipment, credit] What do you see as potential solutions to these challenges? [PROBE: licensing/registration, training, payment/reimbursement, etc.]
- Are you interested in expanding the services you provide, or volume of patients you see? In which ways? [Example: Inclusion of HIV/AIDS or family planning services]
- What are the barriers to expansion?
- Are private health providers able to access training comparable to the training available to public health workers?
- What training do you see as lacking for private health providers?
- Where do you procure your supplies?
- Are you ever visited by medical detailers? If so, how often?
- Do you have any materials to share information with your clients? [If so] Where did you get those materials?
- Do you report any health service statistics to the Ministry of Health? If so, what information do you report and with what frequency? Are these statistics sex-disaggregated where possible?

Questions—Administrative/Business

- How long have you been in operation?
- How long did the registration process take?
- Are there ongoing requirements you must meet in order to maintain your practice?
- How did you finance your practice? Did you encounter any barriers to financing?
- What are your hours of operation? When are your busiest times?

- Are you a participating provider in any government or private coverage scheme?
- Has your facility ever been visited by the Ministry of Health? For what purpose?
- Do you currently have a need for financing? For what purpose? How likely is it that you will be approved for a loan?

Questions – Practitioner Characteristics

- What is your degree?
- How many years have you been in practice?
- Have you received training since graduation?
- Have you received training recently? If so, who provided that training? (Ministry of Health? NGO? Other?) What was the content? Did you have to pay for it? How helpful was it?
- What training do you see as lacking for private health providers?
- If you have not attended a training recently, why not? [PROBE: none offered, inconvenient hours, inability to pay?]
- Do you belong to a professional association? If so, which one? Is it serving your needs?
- Do you also work for the public sector (i.e., dual practice)? [Explain dual practice – working in the public sector while also maintaining a private practice] If so, what are the hours you are present at this [private] facility?
- How common is dual practice?