

Is stocking contraceptive methods a challenge for your health center?

1 message

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upstream USA

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Dear Ethan,

Every day, we learn something new from our healthcare partners. Their insights and challenges push us to explore new ways to address barriers to contraceptive care.

At the recent American Academy of Family Physicians' (AAFP) event, we had the opportunity to connect with primary care providers from across the country, who serve a diverse array of patients. **Yet they all spoke of a common barrier: stocking the full range of contraceptive methods.**



Stocking challenges can have devastating implications for health centers and patients. If a patient—who may have taken off work to drive an hour to the clinic—is unable to access their preferred method during their visit, they may never return for it. For clinics, upfront stocking costs can run in the tens of thousands of dollars each month, with no guarantee of reimbursement. Many health centers just can't afford that risk.

The solution to these challenges lies not just in practice change, but systems change. That's why Upstream advocates for changes to Medicaid reimbursement policy for federally qualified health centers to ensure that they are fully reimbursed, regardless of which option a patient chooses. And, as part of our free technical assistance, Upstream advises our partners on inventory management—so you have a plan for keeping methods on-site.



ARTICLE

Strained resources. Increased demand.

This NBC News article explores the challenges family planning clinics face in providing accessible birth control, featuring Upstream partner WAWC Healthcare in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

[Learn more >](#)

Our partners share our belief that every patient deserves access to their preferred method, whenever and wherever they seek care. But offering this access shouldn't jeopardize their ability to provide care. Upstream is working to ensure that providing access to the full range of contraception isn't a burden for health centers, but a benefit to their communities.

Warmly,
The Upstream Team

Contact us now to Transform Contraceptive Care at your health center

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