

1. Primary Health Care

The importance of qualified Primary Health Care (PHC) is central to a strong, effective health system. “Qualified” means services delivered by trained, competent health workers following proper guidelines and standards.

Importance of Qualified Primary Health Care

1. **Improves Quality of Care:** Qualified health workers provide accurate diagnosis, proper treatment, and appropriate referrals, reducing errors and complications.
2. **Ensures Patient Safety:** Qualified health workers follow standard procedures, which helps prevent misdiagnosis, wrong medication, and unsafe practices.
3. **Promotes Early Detection & Prevention:** Qualified health workers can identify diseases early and deliver preventive services like immunization, screening, and health education.
4. **Reduces Morbidity and Mortality:** High-quality PHC helps control common illnesses and manage chronic diseases, leading to fewer deaths and better health outcomes.
5. **Builds Community Trust:** When care is provided by qualified professionals, people are more likely to seek care early and follow medical advice.
6. **Supports Efficient Health System:** Properly trained staff reduce unnecessary referrals and hospital overload, making the system more cost-effective and efficient.
7. **Ensures Standardized Care:** Qualified PHC providers follow national or WHO guidelines, ensuring consistent and equitable services for all patients.

In MAM SOP, it is a simplified overview flow chart based on the presenting complaints for delivering primary health care to guide rapid clinical decision-making.

Health care providers should select the appropriate flow chart after initial assessment and refer to the main SOP for detailed management guidelines. (Please see details in the updated MSF clinical guideline.)