- Emphasise the importance of a balanced and nutritious diet during pregnancy. The diet of the pregnant woman should contain a mix of cereals, pulses (including beans and nuts), vegetables including greens, milk, eggs, meat and fish. If possible, the family should be encouraged to add oils, jaggery and fruits to the diet. Meat and nuts are especially good for anaemic women. You should explain to the mother and family that no foods should be forbidden during pregnancy.
- See when ANC is due for each check-up and remind them appropriately.
- Escort pregnant woman to VHND where they are hesitant or need such support.
- Ensure that all components of ANC are delivered.
- Ensure that the Maternal Card is updated.



Planning for a Safe Delivery

You should

- Know how to calculate the EDD and communicate this to the pregnant woman.
- Know which institutions in the area provide different levels of care and establish linkages with providers there.
- At least once before delivery, take the pregnant woman to this centre and introduce her to the providers.
- Know what transport is available whether funded by the state or other private means that is easily accessible and affordable and how to call on it when the need arises.
- Assist all pregnant women and families to prepare plans for birth: including identifying funding sources should money be required at short notice. Sometimes Self-Help Groups (SHGs) may advance money in emergency even if the woman is not a member. This is most important for women in remote hamlets, or in communities which are currently not availing of institutional delivery or those at high risk for complications.
- Know what records (BPL card) need to be carried to the institution.
- Share birth plans with ANM and PHC MO at the VHND or monthly meeting.
- Identify mothers with complications, or a high likelihood of developing complications with support from the ANM. Inform them of the institutions that it is most advisable for them to go to and motivate the mother and the family to go there and escort them if required.

