

Antenatal Care Glossary

Parity - number of times that she has given birth to a fetus with a gestational age of 24 weeks or more.

Gestational age - time in weeks measured from conception to birth. Calculated from woman's last menstrual period or ultrasound, etc.

Fundal height - measure of the size of uterus

Hemoglobin level - measurement of protein in red blood cells usually in g/dL (grams per deciliter or g/L). Low levels may indicate anemia.

Blood group - aka blood type, A, B, AB and O.

VDRL test - Venereal disease research laboratory test to determine if woman has syphilis (sexually transmitted infection).

PMTCT - prevention of mother-to-child transmission usually referring to HIV

ARV - antiretroviral (drugs) to control HIV infection.

TT - tetanus toxoid (vaccine).. 2006 guideline from WHO:

— If a pregnant woman has not previously been vaccinated, or if her immunization status is unknown, she should receive two doses of a tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine (TT-CV) one month apart with the second dose given at least two weeks before delivery. Two doses protect against tetanus infection for 1–3 years in most people. A third dose is recommended six months after the second dose, which should extend protection to at least five years.

— Two further doses for women who are first vaccinated against tetanus during pregnancy should be given after the third dose, in the two subsequent years or during two subsequent pregnancies.

— If a woman has had 1–4 doses of a TT-CV in the past, she should receive one dose of a TT-CV during each subsequent pregnancy to a total of five doses (five doses protects throughout the childbearing years).

IPT - Intermittent Preventive Treatment, usually pertaining to malaria since during a pregnancy woman may lose some immunity to malaria infection.

ITN use - Insecticide-treated bed nets, again pertaining to malaria and protecting against it.