

**Deanship of Graduate Studies**

**Al – Quds University**



**Factors Affecting Utilization of Postnatal Care Services  
at Governmental Primary Health Care Clinics  
in Gaza Strip**

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Prepared by:

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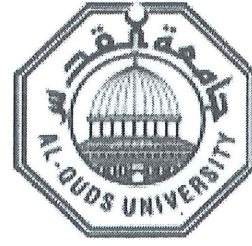
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## **Dedication**

I dedicate this work to:

my parents,

my husband,

my husband's family,

my brothers and sisters,

my sons and daughters,

and my friends,

who has shown love and support from the beginning to end and

encourages me to accomplish my work.

## **Declaration**

I Certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master, is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and this study (or any part of the same) has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

**Signed:**

**Fedaa Al-Masri**

**Date:** / /

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## Abstract

Postnatal care (PNC) is an important link in the continuum of care for maternal and newborn health. The postnatal period is critical as most maternal deaths occur during this time. PNC services are essential in the first six weeks extending to six months after delivery. The aim of this study was to assess the factors affecting utilization of PNC services at governmental primary health care clinics in Gaza Strip. The study design is descriptive cross sectional. This study was conducted at ten health care centers in five Gaza governorates. Convenience sampling consist of postnatal 285 of women and census sampling consist of 36 health care providers who work in primary health care clinics. the response rate was 99%. A pilot study on 30 mothers was done to explore the appropriateness of the study instruments .Data were collected by structure interviewing questionnaire for women & Self-administered questionnaire was used for health care provider. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 22 for data entry and analysis. Frequency, Cross tabulation “Chi-square”, Independent Sample t test,. An ethical approval was asked for from School of Public Health at Al-Quds University and Helsinki Committee. The study results showed that The highest age of women who participants (38.4%) was between 21-25 years, more than half (54.2%) finished secondary school, (91.7%) of HCP reported that the routine PNC visits only one visit. (34.3%) of ANC visit during pregnancy seven times. Also, results showed that half (51.60%) of mothers utilized PNC service while (63.2%) of women were knowledgeable about PNC service. (81.6%) stayed in place after normal vaginal delivery less than six hours, The women delivered by cesarean section stayed in the place 41(80.4%) less than 24 hours, (84.8%) reported that the barrier to received PNC services that they are not aware about services. the result showed that the overall prevalence of PNC visits is only one visit in the first week after delivery. In addition, it was found that there is statistically significant relationship between utilization of PNC services various factors including awareness on PNC service utilization, knowledge during antenatal care and after delivery in hospital. Conclusion: the present study concluded that, the proportion of women utilizing PNC service was low in comparison to World health organization recommendation. The main factor is women awareness on PNC service. Therefore, it is recommended increase the mother awareness regarding the required number of routine PNC visits to match with WHO recommended visits schedule.

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