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Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/srhc





Recommendations for improving maternal health services in Indonesian primary care under the COVID-19 pandemic: Results of a systematic review and appraisal of international guidelines

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Primary care Maternal health Antenatal care Indonesia Systematic review COVID-19

ABSTRACT

Background: A large volume of evidence and reviews about COVID-19 recommendations have been published; however, only a few provide recommendations on maternal health services ready for their adoption in Indonesia. This review aims to identify a set of potential recommendations for improving maternal care in the Indonesian primary care setting under the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: A literature search to identify articles that cover a set of recommendations, or maternal guideline under the SARS-COV-1 outbreak or COVID-19 pandemic that were published from 2020 to 1 November 2022 was applied in six academic databases. The search used various keywords and phrases of 'maternal', 'model' and 'coronavirus', and excluded reviews and those evaluating interventions or medicine prescription. The eligible guidelines were appraised using AGREE II instrument, coded, and thematically analysed for their potential adoption to Indonesian settings.

Findings: Fourteen guidelines were fully reviewed, and most of them had high AGREE II scores. Two main themes emerged from the analysis: clinical and supporting arrangements for maternal health services. Potential challenges for the implementation of these recommendations in Indonesia were also discussed.

Conclusion and implication for practice: Potential recommendations for improving maternal health for women in Indonesia under the COVID-19 pandemic both on the clinical and supporting services arrangements have been identified. Available clinical resources, different context of providers' practice authority and patients' literacy may challenge their implementation in practice. Further research is needed to seek consensus on the recommendation adoption in practice and to desirably redesign maternal health service in Indonesia.

Introduction

Indonesia and other low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) suffer most from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the countries already have high maternal mortality ratios and now have to also hold massive burdens of the pandemics, such as an increased number of pregnant women, limited maternal services, and more women with serious COVID-19 complications [1,2]. Moreover, it has been predicted that the pandemic may increase the maternal mortality up to 38·6% in 118 countries, such as India, Indonesia, and Pakistan [3], and potentially

risks pregnant women for developing anxiety, depression, domestic violence and the reduced visits to health providers [2,4,5].

To prepare providers providing their care for the women, there are two main guidelines currently available in Indonesian primary care: Petunjuk teknis pelayanan Puskesmas pada masa COVID-19 (Guidance for primary care service under COVID-19 pandemic) [6] and the Pedoman bagi ibu hamil, bersalin, nifas, dan bayi baru lahir di era pandemik COVID-19 Revisi 1 and 2 (Guideline for pregnancy, postpartum and newborn care under COVID 19 pandemic Revision 1 and 2) [7,8]. Unfortunately, much misinformation still occurs in practice, such as confusion on

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distancing measures and number of the needed face-to-face antenatal visits to the clinics. These confusions and ineffective management then may harm the safety of providers in primary care as well as the women, who are in the high risk of getting severe COVID- 19 complication or deaths, which may subsequently increase the maternal mortality [3].

While many publications were available to provide recommendations for improving maternity care at the international level, very limited evidence is available to assist Indonesian primary care providers, particularly when Indonesia became the epicentre of COVID-19 pandemic from June-August 2021. Usually, management about COVID-19 care are from developed countries with complete facilities and strong health infrastructure for the recommendation implementation, while different context, limited facilities and low quality of practice of the providers may challenge those recommendations adoption in limited resource settings [9]. Nonetheless, maintaining the good-quality provision of maternity service in Indonesian primary care is essential in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This systematic review is part of a more extensive study aiming to improve the design of maternal health services in Indonesia under the COVID- 19 pandemic. The review aims to identify any clinical and supporting recommendations for improving primary maternal health services and appraise them for their potential adoption in Indonesian primary care practice.

Methods

Search strategy and eligibility criteria

We systematically searched PubMed, EMBASE, MEDLINE, CINAHL, Web of Science, and Cochrane Library for any guideline, model, a set of recommendations or similar form on maternal health service under the COVID-19 pandemic. The systematic search was conducted on 29 January 2021 and was repeated again on 1 November 2022 using MeSH terms and phrases, including 'maternal care', 'primary care'. 'model'

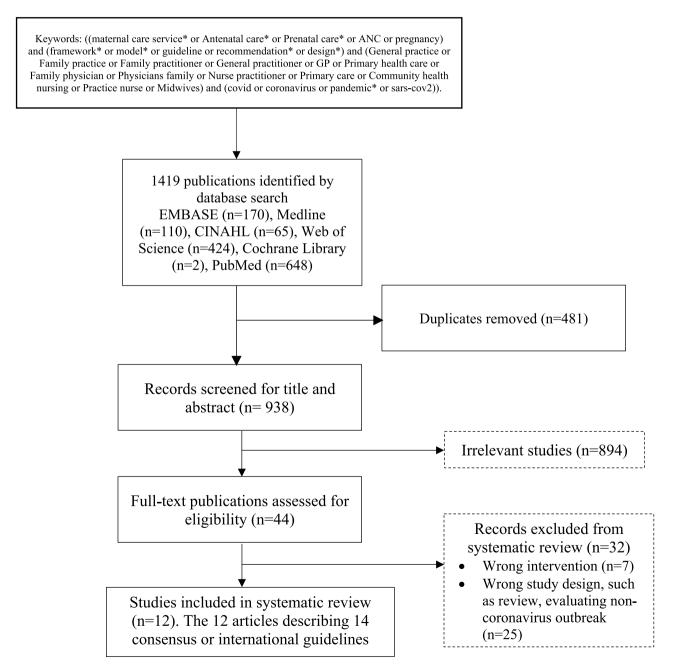


Fig. 1. Flowchart of selection of eligible publications.

and 'coronavirus' for article that was published between 2000 and 1 November 2022. The publication from 2000 was included to look for any practice recommendation arising from the SARS-Coronavirus 1 outbreak in 2002–2004.

Our inclusion criteria were any published guidelines or models or consensus or set of recommendations or design of maternal care potentially adopted for primary care during COVID-19 pandemics, and were published in Spanish or English due to the authors' fluency in the languages. We excluded reviews, sole opinion articles or commentaries without discussing any referred guidelines, perspectives, non-peerreviewed papers; and articles which evaluated specific interventions or single medication for COVID-19. If the articles or commentaries discussing a guideline, then the referred guideline would be appraised and fully reviewed. The Bahasa Indonesia related guidelines and recommendations were also searched and were included as the comparison context for those international guidelines to analyse the suitability of the recommendation to Indonesian settings. The detailed of the search terms used along with the flowchart of paper selection are reported in Fig. 1.

Selecting studies and collecting data

All retrieved studies were managed and screened using Covidence (https://www.covidence.org/) by three authors, who independently screened publications for titles and abstracts. All publications that met eligibility criteria were then retrieved in the full-text format, followed by a full-text review. Data extraction, i.e., author's name, year of study, expected audience, potential recommendations, was performed by the first and the third author; and if any discrepancies occurred, the second and forth authors would be involved. This study design is registered in PROSPERO (CRD42021257030).

Risk of bias assessment

The reviewed guidelines were assessed and analysed based on the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation (AGREE) II instrument [10]-an appraisal tool to evaluate the quality of a guideline or recommendations against six domains: scope and purposes, stakeholder involvement, rigour of development, clarity of presentation, applicability, editorial independence, and overall guideline assessment. Appraisals of the guidelines were performed by two authors independently, and the results were compared and counted for the final scores. Each guideline was also rated on its potential adoption to Indonesian practice: 'Yes' if they were likely applicable for the settings, 'Yes with modification' if the quality of the guideline were scored well, but its potential implementation in Indonesia was undetermined or need to be modified, and 'No' if the quality of the guideline was scored low and unlikely to be implemented in Indonesian contexts. Our consideration on the recommendation applicability was based on the general facility availability in Indonesia, particularly in Yogyakarta and South-East Sulawesi Province, that represent condition in the urban and rural primary care practice in Indonesia; and where the authors are also familiar with the context of practice in the settings. For instance, the available facilities and the context that prescription and care for severe ill pregnant women are usually under the obstetrician care and the task of midwives and general practitioners are to manage uncomplicated pregnancy care [11-13]. Any disagreement on the AGREE II scores and appraisal of the guidelines were also discussed with all investigators until the authors achieved a final decision.

Comparison to the Indonesian context

The first and second authors, who are consisted of two general practitioners and two midwives with more than ten years-experience of practicing and conducting research in maternal health in Indonesian primary care, compared and analysed content of the reviewed guidelines or recommendations to the Indonesian context. The comparison guided

by the authors' clinical experience and consideration based on seven Indonesian regulations and guidelines for maternal health and primary care service under COVID-19 pandemic (Table 1).

Extraction and analysis of the recommendations

Recommendations of each guideline was analysed and synthesised using thematic analysis [14], aided by NVivo-12 Software [15]. The guidelines were uploaded into the software and were coded using inductive thematic analysis principles as follows: any significant recommendations for improving maternal health service in primary care, such as breastfeeding, triage, and the use of protective measurements, prereferral procedures, etc, were coded and grouped into themes of procedures, and the similar themes were then also grouped into overarching themes of procedures. During the coding process, any advanced procedures that may not be suitable for Indonesian primary care, such as the use of advanced medicines or procedures in the hospital were excluded, and any potential barriers to their implementation were also noted. This coding process were conducted by the first and the third author and the results were also discussed and validated by all authors in a series of meeting until consensus was achieved. Results of the analysis are presented in the headings below informed by the The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) checklist (Supplementary file 1) [16].

Results:

A total of 1419 articles were identified, and 481 of them were removed for duplications. Among the 938 papers, 894 were excluded from the title screening, and another 32 papers were excluded from the abstract review as or suitable for the inclusion criteria for this study. Finally, twelve articles fit for a complete review in this study (Fig. 1). The twelve final reviewed papers described fourteen consensus or international guidelines or a set of recommendations for maternal care (Table 2). There are four articles that referred another guidelines reviewed in this review i.e: Smith [17], that indicates the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on maternal and breastfeeding care for women in the context of COVID-19, [18-20]; Larki, Sharifi et al. [21] and the three CDC guidelines also indicate a complementary guideline from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) COVID-19 Technical Brief for Maternity Services [22]. Meanwhile, the article from Cortes [23] indicates Technical document: Management of the pregnant woman and the newborn born with

Table 1

National guidelines and regulations used to provide context of maternal health services in Indonesia.

- Petunjuk teknis pelayanan Puskesmas pada masa COVID-19 (Guidance for primary care service under COVID-19 pandemic) [6]
- Pedoman bagi ibu hamil, bersalin, nifas, dan bayi baru lahir di era pandemik COVID-19 Revisi 1 and 2 (Guideline for pregnancy, postpartum and newborn care under COVID 19 pandemic Revision 1 and 2) [7.8]
- Rekomendasi penanganan infeksi virus corona (COVID-19) pada maternal (hamil, bersalin dan nifas (Recommendations for the management of COVID-19 infection for maternal care (pregnancy, labour, and postnatal care) from the Indonesian Obstetricians Association (POGI) [36]
- 4. Petunjuk praktis layanan kesehatan ibu dan bayi baru lahir selama pandemi COVID-19 (Technical guidance for maternal and newborn care under the COVID-19 pandemic) from the Indonesian taskforce for COVID management,[39] as well as their supporting regulations:
- Keputusan Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia Nomor HK.01.07/MENKES/4829/ 2021 tentang Pedoman pelayanan kesehatan melalui telemedicine pada masa pandemic COVID-19 (Indonesian Minister of Health Decree number 01.07/MENKES/4829/ 2021 about telemedicine service under COVID-19 pandemic) [37]
- Keputusan Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia Nomor HK.01.07/MENKES/413/ 2020 tentang Pedoman pencegahan dan pengendalian COVID-19 (Indonesian Minister of Health Decree number HK.01.07/MENKES/413/2020 about prevention and surveillance of COVID-19) [53]

Table 2
Characteristic of selected papers and guidelines for improving maternal services in primary care under the COVID-19 pandemic in low-and middle-income countries (n = 12).

Author of eligible articles		Year published	Context and country of origin	Expected Audience
Afshar, Silverman et al. [29]	As per the publication	2020	United States	Maternal fetal medicine specialists
Smith [17]	CDC [20] Maternal, neonatal and child service	2020	United States	Not specified
	CDC [18] Care for Breastfeeding people interim guidance	2020	United States	Not specified
	CDC [19] Considerations for Inpatient Obstetric - Healthcare Settings	2020	United States	Staff at hospital/inpatient obstetric settings
Chawla, Chirla et al. [27]	Same as the publication	2020	India	Not specified
Cortes [23]	Management of the pregnant woman and and newborn born with COVID- 19 (Documento técnico: Manejo de la mujer embarazada y el recién nacido con COVID-19 [24]	2020	Spain	Not specified
Okunade, Makwe et al. [30]	As per the publication	2020	Nigeria	Low-resource countries
Larki, Sharifi et al. [21]	UNFPA [22] COVID-19 Technical Brief for Maternity Services	2020	United States	Not specified, but include considerations for low resource settings.
Vogel, Tendal et al. [28]	As per the publication, reporting living guidelines from The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce, Australia on clinical care for pregnant and postpartum women.	2020	Australia	Australian maternity services
Giusti, Zambri et al. [25]	Interim guidance on pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and the care of infants (0–2 years) in response to the COVID-19 emergency Version 2021 [26]	2021	Italy	Not specified, but covering many aspects of maternal and perinatal care during COVID-19 pandemic
Vivanti, Deruelle et al. [32]	As per the publication, answering the request from French Ministry of Solidarity and Healthcare associations.	2020	France	French healthcare professionals and/or health system users
Vivanti, Deruelle et al. [54]	As per the publication, answering the request from French Ministry of Solidarity and Healthcare associations.	2020	France	French healthcare professionals and/or health system users
Homer, Roach et al. [33]	As per the publication, reporting update recommendations for pregnancy care from The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce, Australia	2022	Australia	Australian maternity care providers
Maxwell, McGeer et al. [31]	As per the publication, summarizing the guideline for pregnancy care during SARS-COV 1, sponsored by The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada	2009	Canada	Not specified, aiming to support health care providers caring for pregnant women in Canada

COVID-19 (*Documento técnico: Manejo de la mujer embarazada y el recién nacido con COVID-19* [24], and article from Giusti, Zambri et al. [25] referred the Interim guidance on pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and the care of infants (0–2 years) in response to the COVID-19 emergency Version 2021 [26]. These fourteen guidelines then were fully reviewed in this study (Fig. 1, Table 2).

AGREE II Scores for the reviewed guidelines.

The AGREE II scores of the guidelines are varied. Most of the guidelines or the set of recommendations are scored well, such as Breastfeeding guideline in the context of COVID-19 by CDC [18], Chawla, Chirla et al. [27], UNFPA [22], and Vogel, Tendal et al. [28] for their comprehensiveness of maternal recommendations and potential adoption in Indonesian settings. The other guidelines are scored low due to their lack of clarity across stakeholder involvement, rigour of development, and applicability domains of AGREE (Table 3).

Identified recommendations for improving primary maternity care in Indonesia.

Most of the guidelines provide recommendations on clinical care of pregnant women with COVID-19 or pregnancy-related care during the pandemic. Nonetheless, the analysis raised two main groups of recommendations for pregnancy care during the pandemic: clinical care and supporting arrangements for maternal health services.

Clinical care

This theme presents our findings on recommendations that can be used to improve the services from direct clinical maternity care. It consists of several subthemes: the importance of attention to COVID-19 in pregnancy and maintaining routine antenatal care (ANC) for women in primary care. They were then followed by the direct clinical recommendations on triage, laboratory and imaging arrangement for women, medication used in pregnancy, care for labour and delivery,

breastfeeding and well-baby checks in primary care. The analysis of the recommendations' suitability for Indonesian context is also provided at the end of this theme (Table 4).

Impacts of COVID-19 in pregnancy and the importance of maintaining routine ANC

Understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 and the importance of maintaining routing ANC is essential for pregnant women. COVID-19 could have severe complications for pregnant women, and that they are more susceptible to the risk of preeclampsia like symptoms, venous thromboembolism to the severe respiratory manifestation of COVID-19 symptoms [19,20,27,29,30]. The women, infants, and family may also experience anxiety, depression symptoms or domestic violence caused restriction and isolation during the pandemic [24].

Therefore, it is important to keep maintaining the routine ANC despite the restrictions applied in COVID-19 pandemic. Women are advised to have the first ANC booking and be determined their pregnancy status either directly from the health care facility or through surveillance provided by community health workers (cadres) [20,22]. The ANC shall cover important information about routine pregnancy care as well as information on COVID-19, hygiene and distancing measures [22,29]. In the case where the women have the COVID-19, their condition should be carefully monitored. Asymptomatic women with no comorbidities can isolate at home; however, those with morbidities and incapability to take care of themselves should be managed closely and be considered for hospital monitoring [27]. They can continue to have their visit to the clinic again after the symptoms resolved, have negative tests, or based on the end of isolation decision by the health providers [22].

Triage

All women and the accompanying persons visiting to health care service should be triaged for any COVID-19-related symptoms, or

Comments for the recommendation potential implementation

Recommendations in this guideline are aimed primarily for

maternal foetal medicine specialists at the hospital, and not primarily in primary care. Only some of the recommendations from this paper can be adopted to primary care practice, such as on the triage, and maintaining routine ANC. Other recommendation needs further considerations due to lack of facilities and patients' literacy level for telemedicine, and level

in primary care in LMICs

Table 3Guideline's AGREE II scores.

Afshar, Silverman et al.

Domain 1.

Scope and

purposes

Domain 2.

Stakeholder

involvement

64

Domain 3. Rigor

of development

29

Domain 4.

Clarity of the

presentation

47

Domain 5.

44

Applicability

Domain 6.

independence

Editorial

92

Overall

42

Use of the

Guidelines

Yes, with

modification

Guidelines

[29]

ū

									of competence compared to specialists, such as prescription for ill pregnant women.
CDC [20] Maternal, neonatal and child service	72	47	48	97	58	50	67	Yes	This guideline is succinct, and clear, most of the recommendations potentially be adopted to Indonesian context.
CDC [18] Care for Breastfeeding people interim guidance	86	58	50	89	56	58	75	Yes	Most of the recommendations in the guideline can be implemented in Indonesian primary care.
CDC [19] Considerations for Inpatient Obstetric - Healthcare Settings	86	69	35	89	63	67	67	Yes, with modification	The guidelines aimed for patient management in inpatient obstetric settings (hospital). There are inpatient services for women in primary care in Indonesia, however, with obvious limited facilities compared to hospitals.
Chawla, Chirla et al. [27]	92	86	76	89	71	85	92	Yes	This article covers consensus recommendations from Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), National Neonatology Forum of India (NNF), and Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP). However, the recommendations are potential for their adoption in Indonesian primary care due to facility similarities.
España [24]	18	17	10	16	13	8	5	Yes, with modification	This guideline provides recommendations for management of pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19 mainly at hospital care level, which obviously has different facilities compared to primary care. However, some can be adopted to Indonesian primary care settings, such as: Isolation at home for eligible women with COVID-19 and maintaining routine ANC service for women during the pandemic.
Okunade, Makweet al. [30]	84	81	51	81	56	83	67	Yes	The article covers recommendations on maternal care under COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria, however, most of the recommendations, that are not hospital based, are able to be adopted to the context of primary care in Indonesia.
UNFPA [22]	92	81	48	89	60	67	83	Yes	Recommendations covered in this guideline can be implemented in Indonesia.
Vogel, Tendal et al. [28]	92	89	85	92	94	92	92	Yes, with modification	This article provides comprehensive living guideline for management of women with COVID-19, that can be accessed through https://COVID19evidence.net.au/ . Most of the recommendations can be adopted in Indonesian context, however, recommendations on prescription for severe ill pregnant women may be difficult to adopt as it usually be provided by obstetricians.
Giusti, Zambriet al. [25]	94	89	71	94	75	92	83	Yes	This guidance provides a clear and practical set of recommendations that could be applied to Indonesian settings.
Vivanti, Deruelle et al. [32]	94	94	90	94	79	92	83	Yes	Recommendations covered in this guideline can be implemented in Indonesia, eventhough there may be challenges on the use of telemedicine.
Vivanti, Deruelle et al. [54]	94	94	90	94	79	92	83	Yes	Recommendations covered in this guideline can be implemented in Indonesia.
									(continued on next page)

lable 3 (continued)									
Guidelines	Domain 1. Scope and purposes	Domain 2. Stakeholder involvement	Domain 3. Rigor of development	Domain 4. Clarity of the presentation	Domain 5. Applicability	Domain 6. Editorial independence	Overall	Overall Use of the Guidelines	Comments for the recommendation potential implementation in primary care in LMICs
Homer, Roach et al. [33]	94	94	94	100	79	92	100	Yes, with modification	The guideline is well developed guidance made by The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce (Australia), covering a clear and succinct set of recommendations that can be adopted to Indonesian setting, except for some antiviral drugs that are not readily available in the country. There is also a living pudelines approach that can be accessed anvinne.
Maxwell, McGeeret al. [31]	94	78	94	94	83	83	833	Yes, with modification	This guideling provides recommendations for management of pregnant women during the Coronavirus (SARS-COV) 1 outbreak at hospital care level, however the some of the recommendations, such as isolation requirement and triage could be adopted in the Indonesian primary care settings during this COVID-19 pandemic.

whether are in close contact with suspected or confirmed cases or are currently in isolation [26,31,32]. If they have these conditions, they should be directed to have a COVID-19 test and stay at home as per the isolation requirement [20]. These triage procedures are also recommended for women during their referral, well-baby service, or lactation consultation during postpartum periods [18,22].

Necessary laboratory and imaging arrangement for women

Any examination for pregnant women, whether to determine the COVID-19 severity or to follow up the pregnancy, should be conducted with appropriate precaution. Chest imaging (X-ray or CT) to determine the severity of COVID-19 should be conducted with abdominal shielding and may not be delayed due to the foetal concern [24,30]. Additional examinations for COVID-19, such as electrocardiogram, CT-scan and echocardiogram, can also be conducted to rule out differential diagnoses [24,30].

Examinations to assess foetal growth and well-being should not also be delayed. When possible, the examinations can be conducted without any accompanying person, conducted by limited staff and precautionary measures. Staff is recommended to wear masks, shield, and goggles and perform routine cleaning for the exam table and USG machine to minimise any potential virus spread [29]. While women without risks of COVID-19 can continue to have their scheduled scan, USG scan for confirmed COVID-19 women, should be performed after the isolation.

Medication for COVID-19 in pregnancy

Despite most COVID-19 patients having mild symptoms and no medication needed, the severity of the disease in pregnant women can be more serious [22,30]. The women may need to deliver the babies earlier, considering whether delivery can improve their respiratory system. If they have to deliver in less than 34 weeks, prenatal corticosteroids should be given when indicated as per the usual guideline (Homer et al., 2022). There is no evidence to suggest that steroids to help foetal lung maturation cause any harm to women that any urgent consideration may not prevent its administration [22,30]. Women with COVID-19 may also experience coagulation syndrome and can be suitable for low molecular weight heparins once daily based on the consultations with specialists [28].

End of pregnancy and caring for birth

There were limited recommendations about the timing and mode of delivery for women with COVID-19 in the reviewed guidelines. However, the birth mode needs to be decided based on individual basis and whether there is any obstetric indication. Unless there is a maternal or foetal emergency, the labour should proceed as usual practice. Special consideration for early delivery of their babies may be given to women with moderate-severe COVID-19 who may have respiratory distress syndrome or dehydration [26,28].

When women with COVID-19 require a caesarean section, they should be referred to a hospital with advanced life support and adequate protective measurements [22,27]. If rooms to separate women and babies are not available, the women and babies need to stay in isolated rooms away from other patients. HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters should be used to prevent infection. Elective caesarean delivery for women with COVID-19 without any medical emergency may be postponed to optimize the women's respiratory status prior to surgery under the care of obstetricians. There was also no direct evidence on the delayed cord clamping in women with COVID-19 that may increase potential vertical transmission between women and babies; therefore, the recommendation remains similar to the usual care [28].

While healthy women without any complications during the birth may be discharged after six hours of monitoring from the delivery unit, women with COVID-19 should remain in the facility until their symptoms are clear. Separating COVID-19-positive women with their babies may reduce the infection transmission, however, keeping them together provides benefits of better breastfeeding initiation, thermal regulation,

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 Table 4

 Summary of selected studies for improving maternal services in primary care under the COVID-19 pandemic in low-and middle-income countries (n = 12).

Recommendations	Authors/Na	me of the conse	ensus or guideline											
	Giusti, Zambriet. al. [50]	Vivanti, Deruelleet. al. [32]	Afshar, Silvermanet. al. [29]	Vivanti, Deruelleet. al. [54]	CDC [20] Maternal, neonatal and child service	CDC [18] Care for Breastfeeding people interim guidance	CDC [19] Considerations for Inpatient Obstetric - Healthcare Settings	Chawla, Chirla etal. [27]	España [24]	Homer, Roachet. al. [33]	Okunade, Makwe et al. [30]	UNFPA [22]	Vogel, Tendal et al. [28]	Maxwell, McGeer et al. [31]
Care for pregnant women in primary														
careEffect of COVID- 19 in pregnancy	\checkmark	-	\checkmark	$\sqrt{}$	-	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	$\sqrt{}$	-	-	\checkmark
The importance of routine ANC	$\sqrt{}$	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	-	-	-	\checkmark	-	-	-	\checkmark	-	-
TriageNecessary examination for women	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	-	_	√ -	√ -	-	√ √	-		_	_	√ -
Medication for COVID- 19 related symptoms and pregnancy	\checkmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
 End of pregnancy and caring for birth 	$\sqrt{}$	-	-	-	-	$\sqrt{}$	-	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	_	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
 Breastfeeding and neonatal vaccination 	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	-	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
 Post-natal follow-up for women and neonates Supporting arrangements in maternal health 	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	-	-	-	\checkmark	-	-
services • Limitation to visitors	\checkmark	_	\checkmark	_	_	_	\checkmark	\checkmark	_	_	_	$\sqrt{}$	_	_
 Multidisciplinary team 	$\sqrt{}$	√	-	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	-	$\sqrt{}$	-	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	\checkmark
 Protective equipment, cleaning and other precaution 	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	-	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	_	_	\checkmark
Telemedicine and Telecommunication	\checkmark	$\sqrt{}$	\checkmark	$\sqrt{}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	-

and reduce the risks of sepsis and death in infants, particularly low birthweight babies, and that COVID-19 infection for babies generally mild [20,33]. Parents with COVID-19 should use masks, practice appropriate distancing measures and hand hygiene to minimise the risk of infection spread [28].

Newborns exposed to COVID-19 from their mothers or households can be in the same isolation as their mothers and breastfeed as usual [24,27]. Ideally, a negative air-borne isolation room is preferred to minimise aerosolization; otherwise, a room with exhaust fans or wide ventilation. If same isolation place for newborns with their mothers is not possible due to their infection severity, the newborn can be discharged within 48-hours and cared for by another family member. This early discharge should be followed up with a telephone or home visit monitoring, adequate education to the family about any red-flags in newborns and when to report them to the health providers [24,27].

Breastfeeding and neonatal vaccination

It has been recommended in most of the reviewed papers that COVID-19 status in women should not prevent breastfeeding activities for their babies as benefits of breastfeeding outweigh the transmission risk, and it is unlikely to transmit the virus [22,28,34]. Women with COVID-19 can breastfeed their babies using proper hand-hygiene measures, wearing masks, or practicing expressed breastmilk [29]. Healthy adults who are not at higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 disease may also help feed the babies with the expressed breastmilk. If the adults were the close contact with the positive women, they should wear a mask during their quarantine time while feeding the babies [18,27]. In the situation related to COVID-19, women cannot donate their breastmilk, while the breast pump used to express the milk has to be also cleaned regularly [24,27].

If the infant is breastfed by a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 mother, they should be considered as close contact with a person with COVID-19 and quarantined as recommended. Mask is not recommended for children under two years for the risk of suffocation; therefore, the infection control is conducted by the breastfeeding mothers and the household by wearing masks, staying at a distance from the infant, and regular hand washing [18]. Routine vaccination for healthy babies born to mothers with suspected/proven COVID-19 infection can follow usual practice; even babies with suspected COVID-19 can complete their first Hepatitis B (0) vaccination before hospital discharge as per existing policy or based on consultation with paediatrician [27].

Comparisons from the Indonesian guidelines regarding the identified clinical aspect of maternity care under COVID-19.

The impact of COVID-19 infection in pregnant women and the importance of maintaining monitored ANC visits are mentioned superficially in Indonesian regulations and guidelines (Table 1). Most of the guidelines focus on the triage and referring women with COVID-19 to hospitals with limited practice guideline on escalation procedures to hospitals, i.e., only using the *Modified Early Obstetric Warning Score (MEOWS)* to assess the women before referrals [35]. The guideline also has limited recommendations on the importance of maintaining ANC visits in primary care, even though most of them recommend alternatives to telemedicine using phone calls or WhatsApp messaging if women develop any COVID-19 symptoms [35–38].

Triage for pregnant women in Indonesian guidelines is conducted using questions on the infection history and rapid antigen tests [7,35,36]. However, recommendations about imaging or scanning for women in primary care are superficially covered. The use of antiviral therapy (Remdesivir and Lopinavir) in Indonesian guidelines has limited evidence for its benefits in pregnant women; however, recommendation for dexamethasone and low-molecular-weight heparins are mentioned in the POGI guidelines for hospital obstetricians [36].

Regarding the labour and delivery, women are only advised to selfisolate at home for 14 days close to their labour and tested with COVID antigen tests before their hospital admission without any specific recommendation on the time and mode of delivery [8,35]. There was a trend of sectiocaesarean for women with COVID-19 in Indonesia during the early pandemic as recommendation for routine delivery had not yet been available [8,36]. At that time, the Indonesian guidelines also recommend the women deliveries take place in isolation ward hospitals to minimise the spread of COVID-19 infection [8,35,36,39]. However, in the case of emergency cases, Puskesmas or private midwifery services may prepare the baby delivery using COVID-19 safety measures [8,35]. Some of the Indonesian guidelines also previously recommended the use of delivery chambers in primary care. Delivery chamber is a humble designated room covered with curtains or wide clothes to assist delivery of baby from women with COVID positive [8,35]; however, this recommendation is no longer advised in POGI guideline [36].

There is no recommendation for a specific method to manage infants of COVID-19 positive women in Indonesian guidelines. Delayed umbilical cord is not recommended for newborns of women with COVID-19, and babies have to be bathed immediately to reduce the risk of infection [36,39]. Limited recommendations are also available for roomingin for babies and women with COVID-19 in Indonesian guidelines, or any room requirement for postnatal care for the women and babies [8,36].

Recommendations for early breastfeeding initiation are also not clearly stated. Instead, the women are recommended to be counselled about the risks and benefits of rooming-in and breastfeeding or they can breastfeed from expressed breast milk with a proper hand-hygiene and equipment [8,36]. Regular vaccination for newborns from confirmed COVID-19 women is recommended as routine procedure based on specialists' recommendation [8,36,39].

Supporting arrangements in maternal health service

Limitation to visitors

Some of the reviewed guidelines mentioned only one accompanying person to provide essential support for the women, and they need to be triage as above recommendation [19,27]. Suspected COVID-19 company should not visit health centres, and all visitors should practice adequate hand hygiene and infection control procedures. They may not be allowed to enter other rooms in the clinic or inpatient ward [19,22,29]. If the visit cannot be made, patients are recommended using teleconference or mobile video calls and family members may participate in the consultation [22,29].

Multidisciplinary team

A multidisciplinary team approach in maternal health is also essential under COVID-19 pandemic. The UNFPA and CDC guidelines highlight the roles of cadres/community health workers as the first contact of the women, help triage the women, and to provide the necessary support for them in the community [18,20,22]. A multidisciplinary team is also required to assist women with pregnancy complications, which may include general practitioners, nurses, midwives in primary care, and obstetricians and neonatologists in the hospital [24,30].

Protective equipment, cleaning and other precautions

Health workers should always wear adequate personal protective equipment when providing care for women and babies. In the setting where the status of the women can hardly be determined, a high-level precaution such as using a face shield or goggles is advised to protect the worker and other women from the virus transmission [27]. Besides those precautions, routine surface cleaning using disinfectant and handwashing between patients encounters is also strongly recommended, including maintaining 1.5 m from another person as much as possible [22,24]. Health workers should also report to their supervisors if they develop COVID-19 symptoms, isolate until the symptoms resolved and they have a negative COVID-19 test. All healthcare facilities should always remind their staff of these precautions [19,27].

Telemedicine

Since face-to-face encounters with patients are limited due to the COVID-19 safety requirements, telemedicine in maternal health has been increasingly used. Telemedicine is safer and can be used to monitor high-risk patients based on the physician's consideration [22,29,30]. Teleconference can also be used by inpatient women to communicate with the rest of their families impacted by limiting visitor regulation [22]. However, successful telemedicine usually depends on the quality of the device, internet networks and the user familiarity with the apps or webpages. It would also require a safe and private environment in the women's residences, i.e., in the case of domestic violence that may prevent honest consultation from the patients [22,29,30].

Comparison from the Indonesian guidelines related to supporting arrangements in maternal health services under COVID-19

In Indonesian guidelines (Table 1), supporting arrangements of women's care, such as limitations to visitors, cleaning and the importance of multidisciplinary team are not mentioned. The guidelines; however, are very detailed mentioning procedures for PPE use [8,36], the use of telemedicine as an alternative to usual care, and financing for the services [35–38]. They also mention activities that can be facilitated through telemedicine, such as health promotion, consultation, and maternal class, and mentioning many telemedicine apps, such as SEHATI tele-CTG, Halodoc, Alodoc, Teman Bumil, and SMSBunda [39]. Challenges for the supporting arrangements for maternal care under COVID-19 in Indonesia remain on whether the health service has adequate supply of PPE and whether the workers have a good practice of wearing it [40]. There is also unclear evidence on whether women can use telemedicine optimally, considering the available technology and their health literacy level [41].

Discussion:

This review has identified recommendations for improving maternal services that are potential for their adoption in Indonesian primary care settings. The guidelines appraisals using AGREE II scores showed high quality of most of the reviewed guidelines particularly for Chawla, Chirla et al. [27], UNFPA [22,33] and Vogel, Tendal et al. [28] that increase confidence of the recommendation adoption in practice.

The core of the findings in this review consists of clinical care and supporting service arrangements for the women, from the structure, clinical procedures, and model of care to well-baby visits. The findings have stressed the importance of pregnancy and care for birth that may be adjusted from face-to-face to telemedicine and considering the local context and COVID-19 regulations. The recommendations from this review have also been analysed to complement the previous review on maternal health guidelines [42], as well as the potential of the use of the recommendations for improving the current Indonesian practice. Such as, more detailed recommendation on stressing the importance of continuing routine ANC, end of pregnancy, breastfeeding, infant vaccination, limiting visitors, and multidisciplinary team in primary care.

However, there are also potential challenges to the recommendation adoption in the Indonesian settings implied from our appraisals. First, even though they are potential for their adoption for improving maternal service in Indonesia, the speed of knowledge transfer and evidence spread in Indonesia is slow due to the dependency on the higher-level providers. This challenge particularly occurs in any procedures involving medicine prescriptions, or tests for women with morbidities or pregnancy complications, that are usually ordered by obstetricians, while midwives and general practitioners' are claimed to take care normal pregnant women without complicated diseases in primary care [13,43]. Second, the challenges of facilities and clinical resources in Indonesia are prominent. Even though some primary care clinics are equipped with essential medicines and 2D ultrasound scans, not all of the scans are functional due to the available access to electricity or skilled providers. Meanwhile, challenges to the women's health literacy

and social culture may also affect the acceptance of some recommendations, such as limited accompanying persons and the use of telemedicine [41]. For instance, limiting visitors during the ANC may challenge the ability of the women to decide on treatment as they are likely depending the decision the husbands or respected men in the family [44,45]. Not all women are also familiar and able to use phones and apps for telemedicine. Therefore, some of the recommendations may need to be further contextualised for their adoption in primary care practice.

This review also has some limitations. The results of this review may require careful consideration and periodic review of care to response the fast-changing recommendation for the COVID-19 pandemic. This review also only included six academic databases with a limited snowballing search of grey recommendations, and the context of our review is Indonesia, which may represent some but not all conditions of LMICs. Context of comparison and appraisal of the guidelines were also only based on the identified Indonesian regulations, guidelines and health-care situations in two regions in Indonesia (Yogyakarta and South-East Sulawesi Province). Even though Yogyakarta and Sulawesi are in the western and eastern part of Indonesia, it is worth noting that results of this review may not be applicable in other Indonesian provinces due to different practice situation.

Authors of this review are also aware that research about COVID-19 is continuing, and it is expected that more recommendations will be available in the literature, while the initial literature search for this review was conducted before recommendations for vaccination in pregnant women were published. Pregnant and lactating women were previously not included in the COVID vaccine development and trial, even though COVID-19 severe complications in pregnant women were already known [46]. The recommendations of vaccination pregnant and breastfeeding women has been recommended after the spread of Delta variant, and now the benefits of the produced COVID-19 antibody from vaccination now have been more understood [47–50].

Nowadays, with the extensive uptake of the vaccination, many countries have been able to relax the restriction. However, challenges remain on the equity of the vaccine distribution in some LMICs, such as Indonesia where some regions still apply the restrictions, including the care for pregnant women [51]. Therefore, these recommendations for improving maternity care may still benefit health providers to better prepare for emergency conditions [52]. Further research is still also needed to seek consensus on the recommendation adoption in the practice, and perhaps to also improve the design the maternal health service in Indonesia.

Ethical clearance. Not applicable. Funding. None.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Data availability

Available upon request.

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