A Health Handbook for Women with Disabilities

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Berkeley, California, USA
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This book provides basic information to help women with disabilities stay healthy, and will also help those who assist women with disabilities to provide good care. You can help us improve this health guide. So, if you are a woman with a disability, a caregiver, or anyone with ideas or suggestions about how to improve this book and the health of women with disabilities, please write to us. We would like to hear about your experiences and practices.

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Family planning for women with disabilities (and their partners — whether able-bodied or disabled) must be made available. As is the case with the inclusion of persons with disabilities for all Millennium Development Goals, general reproductive health disabilities. Finally, women with disabilities face additional concerns that must be anticipated in Millennium Development Goal programming: (a) Contrary to the goals and principles of all the human rights conventions, women with disabilities and girls as young as 7 and 8 are often sterilized against their knowledge or will; (b) In some communities, women (and men) with disabilities who have children face the prospect of having their children taken from them because the parents have a disability.
Women with disabilities may need specialty care to address their individual needs. In addition, they need the same general health care as women without disabilities, and they may also need additional care to address their specific needs. However, research has shown that many women with disabilities may not receive regular health screenings within recommended guidelines.3 This section of our website has tools and health information for women with disabilities. Breast Cancer Screening: The Right To Know. Women’s Health Information. Healthy Living. People with disabilities need health care and health programs for the same reasons anyone else does—to stay well, active, and a part of the community. Having a disability does not mean a person cannot be healthy.