

# Summary of the Position Paper for the General Public.

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## Second Trimester Antenatal Maternal Sepsis

- Maternal sepsis is a serious but rare condition that is caused by severe infection during pregnancy.
- The early recognition and aggressive treatment of infection with appropriate antibiotics in pregnancy is crucial.
- If there are signs of severe infection, then the baby will need to be delivered in order to save the mother's life, even if the baby may be too young to survive. Very often this delivery happens naturally, but sometimes it will need to be done medically.
- There is a clear distinction between abortion and medical delivery for the purposes of saving the mother's life. With abortion the purpose is to produce a dead baby, whereas with medical delivery the intention is to save the mother's life, while giving the baby full care, and a chance for life even if this chance is very small.
- This is already the practice in Malta. DFL has full confidence in the high level of care provided by the local maternal health services. Attesting to this is the fact that in the last 9 years there were over 35,000 births without a single maternal death.