
Affirmative Provisions in Support of Abortion Training

Use this resource to change the abortion training language within your residency, professional association, and/or medical school. These provisions are the standards in abortion care.

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education – Program Requirements for Resident Education
in Obstetrics and Gynecology
Abortion Training Standard
Adopted July 31, 1995

Section V, E, 5

No program or resident with a religious or moral objection shall be required to provide training in or to perform induced abortions. Otherwise, access to experience with induced abortion must be part of residency education. This education can be provided outside the institution. Experience with management of complications of abortion must be provided to all residents. If a residency program has a religious, moral, or legal restriction that prohibits the residents from performing abortions within the institution, the program must ensure that the residents receive satisfactory education and experience in managing the complications of abortion. Furthermore, such residency programs (1) must not impede residents in the programs who do not have religious or moral objections from receiving education and experience in performing abortions at another institution and (2) must publicize such policy to all applicants to those residency programs.¹

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Position Statement
Approved February 23, 2005

Abortion education needs to be a standard component of medical education in all accredited institutions. Abortion training should be available to all, with exceptions only to meet the needs of individuals whose personal beliefs preclude them from providing abortion services. Health care providers who do not provide abortion services on moral or religious grounds have a professional obligation to provide their patients with a timely referral to another health professional known to provide such services. An individual provider's religious or moral beliefs must not limit the scope or the quality of health care available to patients.²

New York City's Mayoral Residency Training Mandate
Summer 2002

This mandate affects seven OB/GYN residency programs in New York City and is particularly important in light of the fact that one in seven of U.S. doctors participate in a residency in New York State. In 2001, as Michael Bloomberg campaigned to be New York City Mayor, he put forward a proposal to integrate medical residency training in abortion care. In the summer of 2002, Mayor Bloomberg's mandate to improve residency training in New York City hospitals marked the first time a city government required abortion training in publicly funded hospitals.

Mayor Bloomberg released the 2004 Campaign Accountability Report in order to detail his administration's progress in implementing his proposals during his campaign for mayor. The two initiatives below were completed.

¹ Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Program Requirements for Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology. February 15, 2005. http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/downloads/RRC_progReq/220pr705.pdf

² Association of Reproductive Health Professionals. Position Statement. February 23, 2005. <http://www.arhp.org/roevwade/arhpposition.cfm>

Initiative

Integrate medical residency training in abortion care into the Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) network of OB/GYN programs.

2003 Update

All HHC OB/GYN residency training programs have pregnancy termination training. Staff training and capital improvements are also being done in locations that offer abortions.

Initiative

Maintain the City's commitment to protecting clinics from violence, threats, and harassment.

2003 Update

Health Police patrol all clinic facilities. In the past year, medical abortion services were begun in a Maternal Infant Care clinic in one facility, and increased security was provided.³

State of California Assembly Bill 2194

February 20, 2002

Signed by Governor Gray Davis September 5, 2002

AB 2194, Jackson. Obstetrics and gynecology residency requirements.

Existing law, the Therapeutic Abortion Act, authorizes the performance of a therapeutic abortion by a physician and surgeon subject to specified procedures and requirements.

This bill requires all residency programs in obstetrics and gynecology to comply with the program requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 123418 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

123418. Subject to all other provisions of this article, all residency programs in obstetrics and gynecology shall comply with the program requirements for residency education in obstetrics and gynecology of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, which requires that in addition to education and training in in-patient care, the program in obstetrics-gynecology be geared toward the development of competence in the provision of ambulatory primary health care for women, including, but not limited to, training in the performance of abortion services.⁴

California Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians

April 2005

The California chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) passed the resolution, *Promotion of Residency Training in Full Spectrum Women's Health Care*, which recommends annual evidence-based didactic lectures on contraception and pregnancy options counseling and abortion training with opt-out provisions in family practice resident curricula. The goal of this training is not just to increase access for women in the state, but to ensure that primary care physicians have the skills to provide balanced, unbiased counseling to patients experiencing unintended pregnancy, appropriate referrals, and the management of follow-up and complications as needed. It is also an important step in normalizing abortion care within the broader spectrum of primary care for women.⁵

For More Information

For referrals to abortion providers who offer quality care, call NAF's toll-free hotline: 1-800-772-9100.

Weekdays: 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. Eastern Time

Saturdays: 9:00A.M. - 5:00P.M. Eastern Time

National Abortion Federation; 1660 L Street, NW,
Suite 450; Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-667-5881

Email: naf@prochoice.org

Web Address: www.prochoice.org

³ New York City Government. 2004 Campaign Accountability Report. July 2004. http://home.nyc.gov/portal/index.jsp?front_door=true

⁴ Cal Health & Saf Code § 123418 (2005). <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cacodes/hsc/123375-123418.html>.

⁵ California Academy of Family Physicians. Conference of Delegates. November 30, 2005. http://www.familydocs.org/assets/About/COD_2005Resolutions_Final_Actions.doc.