

Policy on Family Planning, Contraception, Permanent Sterilization, and Abortion Training

As the major provider of reproductive health care for women, obstetrician gynecologists play a key role in the provision of contraception services. During training at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, it is our expectation that residents will provide the full range of family planning services to our patients including:

1. Provision of non-directive counseling with consideration of a patient's religious, ethical, and cultural differences and consideration of the factors that influence patient choices.
2. Full explanation of advantages, disadvantages, failure rates, and complications associated with all method of contraception to patients.
3. Performance of a pertinent history and physical exam, and interpretation of laboratory data to help patients make informed contraceptive choices.
4. Provision of prescriptions to patients for hormonal methods and barrier methods, placement of IUDs and implants, and performance of sterilization procedures under direct supervision of an attending physician.

For reasons of moral or ethical objection, residents may opt out of abortion training. Residents who do not provide abortions themselves are still expected to counsel patients, make appropriate referrals, and manage post-abortal complications.

Approved by Resident Education Committee on 12/19/07