

Video Companion Guide

Physicians' Professional Responsibilities in Abortion Care

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the session, learners will be able to:

- Describe the 3 guiding principles that define professionalism in medicine.
- Define patient-centered care.
- Identify conditions under which physicians may not invoke “conscientious refusal” in abortion care.

Video Lecture: Physicians' Professional Responsibilities in Abortion Care

Presented by Dr. Jody Steinauer



Available for free viewing at:

www.innovating-education.org/abortion-quality-care-and-public-health-implications/#weektwo

Suggested Readings:

- [American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. Committee Opinion No. 385: The Limits of Conscientious Refusal in Reproductive Medicine. Nov. 2007. Reaffirmed 2013.](#)
- [Curlin FA, Lawrence RE, Chin MH, Lantos JD. Religions, Conscience, and Controversial Clinical Practice. The New England Journal of Medicine. 2007. 356; 593-600.](#)
- [Eastwood KL, Kacmar JE, Steinauer J, Weitzen S, Boardman LA. Abortion Training in United States Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Programs. Obstetrics and Gynecology. Aug. 2006. 108\(2\); 303-8.](#)

Teaching Points

- Professionalism in medicine centers around 3 guiding principles:
 - 1) The principle of primacy of patient welfare
 - 2) The principle of patient autonomy
 - 3) The principle of social justice
- In order to provide patient-centered care, the physician must put aside their personal beliefs in order to prioritize the culture, family, and values of the patient.
- Principles of professionalism challenge physicians to be empathetic, respectful, and compassionate toward patients.
- “Conscientious Refusal” occurs when a clinician claims a right to refuse to provide certain services, refuses to refer patients, or declines to inform patients about their existing options due to the claim that to provide services would compromise his/her moral integrity. When assessing the criteria under which a physician can invoke “conscientious refusal,” **a clinician may not compromise patient autonomy, threaten patient welfare, undermine scientific integrity, or provide discriminatory care.**

Suggested Discussion Questions

1. What is patient-centered care?
2. What are the 3 guiding principles that define professionalism in medicine?
3. “Conscientious Refusal” is when clinicians refuse to provide certain services, refer patients, or inform patients about their existing options, claiming that providing these services would compromise their moral integrity.
 - a. What are the conditions under which physicians may not invoke “conscientious refusal” (as outlined by ACOG)?

Lesson Plan: *Physicians' Professional Responsibilities in Abortion Care*

Using a flipped classroom model, this lesson plan will use the video lecture and additional resources to provide learners with an engaging learning environment. Here's how to use this course in a "flipped-classroom" at your own institution.

What is a "Flipped Classroom" Learning Model?

A "flipped classroom" model provides students with instructional content prior to class and facilitates in-class activities that focus on higher-level cognitive activities.^{1,2} This model differs from a traditional direct instruction approach and uses class time for students to engage in hands-on learning, collaboration with their peers, and evaluation of their own progress. Students are then able to practice applying key concepts while receiving guidance and feedback when it can help them most.^{1,2,3}

Time Required

Total Time of Video Lecture: 18 minutes

[Recommended] Estimated Independent Prep Time Required by Learner: 1 hour

Total Estimated Time Required for In-Classroom Activity: 1 hour

Materials Required and Instructor Preparation

- Learners will need internet access with enough bandwidth to view streaming videos.
- The instructor should print copies of the small group activity handout (Page 4) and the individual in-class assignment (Page 5) included in this packet.
- Prior to the arrival of learners in the classroom, the instructor should write the questions from the small group activity handout on a chalkboard or easel so visible to all learners.

Activity

Independent Preparation (conducted by learner before in-classroom activity)

- Learners should independently view the video lecture.
- Learners may be assigned any of the following relevant readings (determined by instructor's desired learner work-load) as outlined in the "Suggested Readings" section on page 1.

In-Classroom Activity (Small Group and Individual Assignment)

- Divide the classroom into small groups (of 2 or 3) and distribute the small group activity handout (Page 4). Instruct students to spend 15 minutes and work together to answer the questions provided on the handout. At the end of this activity, convene the class.
- Present the questions discussed in the small group activity and have each group share their answers. Write these points out on the board for the class to see.
- When every group has answered, provide an opportunity for a dialogue between students. As the conversation begins to come to a close, reflect back on the discussion by drawing on the teaching points. Collect each handout from the group.
- Next, distribute the individual assignment (on Page 5) to each learner and allow 10-15 minutes for completion. Collect the individual assignments and conclude the lesson

Name

Date

Physicians' Professional Responsibilities in Abortion Care
Individual In-Class Assignment

Please answer the following question referencing the video lecture, "Physicians' Professional Responsibilities in Abortion Care" readings you were assigned prior to class, and the small group activity. You will turn in this completed handout at the end of this session.

Question

1. "Conscientious Refusal" occurs when clinicians refuse to provide certain services, refer patients, or inform patients about their existing options, claiming that providing these services would compromise their moral integrity.

What are the conditions under which physicians may not invoke "conscientious refusal" (as outlined by ACOG)?