

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Department of Specialized Women's Health, X Women's Hospital

Policy on Postgraduate Training in Abortion and Sterilization

Our residency program includes training in abortion and female sterilization throughout the five years. A rotation dedicated to family planning training occurs during the first year; including the provision of medical abortion, suction aspiration abortion, dilation and evacuation procedures. Our program understands that some residents struggle with the dilemma of whether they hold a moral objection to abortion or sterilization.

- The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University X expects that all residents will be offered instruction in contraception and abortion counseling and techniques.
- The department expects that residents will participate in the provision of care to women with complications of abortion procedures when the need arises.
- All residents will be expected to know the theory, science and appropriate medical and surgical care involved in abortion services, especially as it pertains to complications of either spontaneous or induced abortions. The resident will be able to participate in the care of the patient to the degree of their comfort.
- The residents will be evaluated on theoretical knowledge at the end of the rotation.
- The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, in conjunction with the Department of Specialized Women's Health at X Women's Hospital, will facilitate the access to experience in the performance of abortion and sterilization procedures for residents with appropriate faculty supervision.
- If a resident has a religious or moral objection and does not wish to participate in the provision of abortion or sterilization services, that wish will be respected by the program. All residents will be notified of the department policy on this issue prior to the Family Planning Rotation. Residents are encouraged to discuss this issue with peers and mentors. A resident who has a religious or moral objection should indicate their objection to the Program Director, without prejudice. Individuals within the department who are involved in the provision of these services are available to meet with residents who have questions or concerns at any mutually agreeable time, without prejudice.
- Residents will be expected to complete the attached form outlining the degree to which they wish to be clinically involved during the Family Planning Rotation.
- As with any issue or concern, a resident who feels inappropriately pressured to participate in actions that the resident deems morally or ethically questionable is encouraged to discuss the issue with the Program Director, Department Head or with appropriate individuals in the Postgraduate Dean's Office.

A decision not to participate in abortion care will have no impact on the resident's evaluations in the rotation or the program.