

Video Companion Guide

Nursing Roles in Abortion Care: Clinical Responsibility and Professional Ethics

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

- Describe the nurse's role in pregnancy testing, options counseling, obtaining consent, and post-procedure counseling (including contraceptive counseling).
- Describe the responsibilities of a nurse who has a conscientious objection to participation in abortion care (as outlined by the Royal College of Nursing).

Video Lecture: Nursing Roles in Abortion Care

Presented by Dr. Amy Levi



Available for free viewing at:

www.innovating-education.org/2016/02/nursing-roles-in-abortion-care/

Suggested Readings:

- [Kade K, Kumar D, Polis C, Schaffer K. Effect of nurses' attitudes on hospital-based abortion procedures in Massachusetts. Contraception. 2004. 69\(1\): 59-62.](#)
- [ANSIRH. Advancing access to abortion care: Landscape of health professional regulation of abortion provision in the U.S. Accessed Aug. 7, 2014.](#)
- [N.Y. nurse sues after being forced to aid abortion. The Washington Times. July 2009.](#)
- [Kendell, M. Abortion saved my life. Salon. May 26, 2011.](#)

Teaching Points

- The International Council of Nurses' statement on women's health supports the concept that women must have control over their reproductive health.
- The Royal College of Nursing states that a nurse who has a conscientious objection to participation in abortion care has the following responsibilities:
 - Inform his/her employer if they choose not to participate
 - Request removal from any non-emergent provision of care
 - Nurses must recognize that they can't refuse to provide care for women in emergent situations, no matter what the case.
- The nurse's role in pregnancy testing and options counseling includes:
 - Performing an assessment of pregnancy wantedness
 - Providing information about all available options and be nonjudgmental
 - Demonstrating support of the patient's decision and allowing the patient to explore the consequences of their decision without interference from the nurse's own beliefs and thoughts.
- The nurse's role in obtaining consent includes:
 - Explaining the procedure
 - Identifying potential complications
 - Talking about procedures in the event of complications (although complications are rare in the setting of abortion)
- The nurse's role in post-procedure counseling include:
 - Reviewing what to expect in a normal course after abortion in terms of physical and emotional symptoms
 - Providing adequate information about how and where to seek continued care
 - Providing counseling for post-procedure contraceptive care (when appropriate)

Suggested Discussion Questions

1. What is the nurse's role in pregnancy testing and options counseling?
2. What is the nurse's role in obtaining consent for an abortion procedure?
3. What is the nurse's role in post-procedural counseling?
4. As outlined in the Royal College of Nursing guidelines, what are the responsibilities of a nurse who has a conscientious objection to participation in abortion care?

Lesson Plan: Nursing Roles 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 learners 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 learners to engage in hands-on learning, collaboration with their peers, and evaluation of their own progress. Learners 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: 10 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 learners 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 learners. 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

Nursing Roles in Abortion Care: Clinical Responsibility and Professional Ethics Individual In-Class Assignment

In 1-2 short paragraphs (for each question), please answer the following scenario question referencing the video lecture, "Nursing Roles in Abortion Care: Clinical Responsibility and Professional Ethics" readings you were assigned, and the small group activity. You will turn in this completed handout at the end of this session.

Questions

1. As outlined in the Royal College of Nursing guidelines, what are the responsibilities of a nurse who has a conscientious objection to participation in abortion care?