



New Paradigms for Training in Postpartum Care as a Continuum of Women's Health

Background

- Board-certified health care provider education in obstetrics and gynecology is in part provided through a Maintenance of Certification program provided by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG).
- Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requires faculty of residency programs to have current certification by ABOG.
- Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Obstetrics and Gynecology program requirements include the following:
 - Assessment should specifically monitor the resident's knowledge by use of a formal examination such as the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG) In-Training Examination or other cognitive examinations.
 - Expectations of trainees and health care providers in obstetrics and gynecology include coordinating patient care within the health care system relevant to their clinical specialty, working in interprofessional teams to enhance patient safety and improve patient care quality, and advocating for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems.

General Recommendations for Health Care Provider Dissemination

- Identify reviews and original research in postpartum care and recommend to ABOG for consideration to include in annual Maintenance of Certification offerings. These should include but are not limited to [Committee Opinion 736, Optimizing Postpartum Care](#).
- Include sessions (clinical seminars) at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' (ACOG) annual meeting that specify the postpartum visit as a continuum of care for cardiac health, obesity, diabetes, and substance use disorders.
- Revisit the Postpartum Care Plan; after specific interval care recommendations make available to fellows. <https://www.acog.org/-/media/Departments/Members-Only/Patient-Records/AA197-Postpartum-Form.pdf?dmc=1> (*Member access required*)
- Develop protocol or toolkit pieces that include algorithms that health care providers can use easily within ACOG materials.
- Organize toolkits or protocols for health care providers in subtopics.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can share information with clinicians through its partners: state Medicaid offices within public health departments (through memoranda and health care provider notices that highlight changes in billing, coding, reimbursement for services); Association of State and Territorial Health Officers; Health Resources and Services

Administration (manage Federally Qualified Health Centers and rural health centers); Office of Population Affairs (administers Title X/Family Planning Clinics); National Association of County and City Health Officials (Maternal and Child Health).

General Recommendations for Public Awareness

- Promote at the ACOG annual meeting in general sessions with invitations to district meetings and 2019—call for best practice in Postpartum Care as a continuum of women's health.
- Collaboratively provide materials similar to those listed in the section "General Recommendations for Health Care Provider Dissemination" for colleagues in family and community medicine, internal medicine, certified nurse midwifery, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, and American Academy of Physician Assistants.
- Request Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to include information about updated postpartum care guidance on its website.

Follow-up

- Develop CREOG material learning objectives, independent learning modules, CREOG quiz items) for residency program directors and faculty to use.
- Use the media to increase public awareness of the importance of postpartum care.

Resource

- ❖ Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. ACGME program requirements for graduate medical education in obstetrics and gynecology. Chicago (IL): ACGME; 2017. Available at: http://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PFAssets/ProgramRequirements/220_obstetrics_and_gynecology_2017-07-01.pdf?ver=2017-05-25-084930-787. Retrieved March 1, 2018.