CARE OF PATIENTS UNDERGOING TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

Manual: Clinical Unit Policy Manual and OB/GYN Intranet Website

Categories:

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Review Responsibility: OB PCC Committee
GYN Women’s Surgery PCC Committee
Women’s Health Executive Leadership Committee

Effective Date: June 1, 2007

Last Revised Date: February 12, 2010

Team Members Performing:

- RN
- LPN
- Care Partner
- Other licensed staff (specify): OB Residents, L&D Attendings (MD/Midwife), OB Anesthesia

Guidelines Applicable to:

- VUH
- VMG
- VCH
- PHV
- Other (specify): GYN/Women’s Surgery Unit, Labor and Delivery, OB/GYN Clinics
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I. **Outcome Goal:** To provide safe quality care for women having a termination of pregnancy.

II. **Definitions:**

   Abortion - means the administration to a pregnant woman any medicine, drug, or substance, or the use of any instrument, or other means, with the intent to terminate the pregnancy.

III. **Policy:**

   A. All healthcare providers within the Women’s Patient Care Center will provide safe, quality care for women undergoing terminations of pregnancy.

   B. All nursing and ancillary staff within the Women’s Patient Care Center has the professional responsibility to provide quality, impartial care to all patients in an emergency situation.

   C. If a current nurse or ancillary staff member wishes to refuse to participate in the termination of pregnancy, he/she shall notify the manager and follow the procedure as defined in OP 30-10.10 as soon as possible after he/she decides that he/she needs to request such accommodation. This request does not normally excuse a nurse or staff member from participating in the routine admitting, pre-natal, pre-operative, post-natal and post-operative care of these patients. Requests for accommodations should be directed to the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services Department pursuant to HR Policy.
D. All potential new hires are to be informed that the Center performs terminations in situations which are medically indicated, and that it is an expectation of this position. Any questions or requests for accommodations should also be referred to the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services Department as in Paragraph C.

E. All nursing and ancillary staff who have not requested and been granted an accommodation shall be expected to participate in all aspects of the patient’s care, including termination. (or shall be responsible for finding a staff member with equal training, skill and licensure to fill in for them) In the event no one is available, any staff member who has not been granted an accommodation may be required to for provide the care.

IV. Equipment/Supplies: as needed

V. Documentation:
   A. Documentation per VUH guidelines
   B. Will be reviewed with employee during annual policy reviews.

VI. Cross References:
   OP 30-10.10
   TCA 39-4-201
   TCA 39-4-204
   AWHONN Policy Guidelines
   ACOG Guidelines

VI. Endorsement:
   Women’s Health PCC Executive Leadership Committee
   GYN/Women’s Surgery PCC Committee
   Obstetrical PCC Committee
VII. Approval:

Dr. Howard Jones
Chair OB/GYN

Dr. Bennett Spetalnick
Medical Director of Labor and Delivery

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