



Policy: Termination of Pregnancy

Policy Number: 873-0020

Effective: 07/13/04

Audit Review: 03/06/15

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Abortion means any medical treatment intended to induce the termination of pregnancy except for the purpose of producing a live birth.
- B. Current legal precedent allows elective termination of pregnancy up to age of viability. It is also allowed at any gestational age, if the fetus is deemed incapable of viability or to protect the mother's health.
- C. Because of the comparatively low volume of OB services offered at PMH, elective terminations are rarely performed. As such, the hospital's ability to staff for this procedure is inconsistent. Prior to considering termination of pregnancy, it will be necessary for physicians to communicate with the OB clinical manager and OR manager to evaluate adequate staffing availability.

POLICY: Statute requires PMH, as a public hospital, to offer termination of pregnancy.

1. Pretermination

- A. Consultation: Physicians on staff are required to obtain a consult with another OB provider for patients who are to be admitted for termination of pregnancy.
- B. Team Consult: A team consult is encouraged to review and discuss the case to ensure that concerns of the patient, family and provider have been addressed; the alternatives have been explored, and the decision is based on informed consent. It is recommended the team consist of, but not be limited to, the primary provider, a pediatrician and Social Services.
- C. An informed consent with information from the above providers shall be documented in the chart. It will clearly reflect the patient's understanding of the procedure, alternatives and the risk thereof. The physician terminating the pregnancy, must fully document in the patient's chart the



basis for his or her determination that the fetus is not viable or that the procedure is necessary to protect the health of the pregnant woman.

- D. It is requested that a minimum of 48 hours prior notification of the planned admission be provided to the Clinical manager of the OB department to determine if appropriate staffing can be arranged. The Clinical manager must then coordinate any services with the Surgery manager prior to proceeding.
- E. It is the hospital policy that a Social Service Referral be done on every patient.

2. Staffing:

- A. No physician, member of the PMH staff or PMH employee shall be required to participate in the performance of any termination of pregnancy, if the individual objects to doing so.
- B. Any physician, member of the PMH staff or PMH employee may state their objection on a case-by-case basis or may provide PMH with a letter stating that they will not participate in any termination of pregnancy performed at PMH or any District-owned facility.
- C. No physician, member of the PMH staff or PMH employee shall be discriminated against in employment or professional privileges because of his or her participation or refusal of participation in the termination of pregnancy.
- D. If appropriate staff is not available, the pregnant woman seeking a termination of pregnancy, will be referred back to her provider.

OF NOTE: WAC 246-490-100 Reporting of Pregnancy Terminations

Each hospital and facility where lawful induced abortions are performed during the first, second, or third trimester of pregnancy shall, on forms prescribed and supplied by the secretary, report to the department during the following month the number and dates of induced abortions performed during the previous month, giving for each abortion the age of the patient, geographic location of patient's residence, patient's previous pregnancy history, the duration of the pregnancy, the method of abortion, any complications, such as perforations, infections, and incomplete evacuations, the name of the physician or physicians performing or participating in the abortion and such other relevant information as may be required by the secretary. All physicians performing abortions in non-approved facilities when the physician has determined that termination of pregnancy was immediately necessary to meet a medical emergency, shall also report in the same manner, and shall additionally provide a clear and detailed statement of the facts upon which he or she based his or her judgment of medical emergency.