



Emerging Topics Bulletin for Educators

Supported by the CFPC's Postgraduate Education Committee

Medical and Surgical Abortion Education and Counselling

Background

In September 2016 the CFPC issued a [formal statement](#) that recognizes abortion as a medical procedure that is safely and routinely provided in Canada, and further acknowledges the rights of Canadian women to have access to safe abortion services.

In April 2017 the Section of Residents requested that the Postgraduate Education Committee (PGE) consider a perceived need to include more thorough abortion education in the residency curriculum. There was also an article in the *Canadian Family Physician* August 2018 issue, entitled [Abortion remains absent from family medicine training in Canada](#).

Following consultation with residency programs, the PGE identified the need for a resource for this topic.

Educational resources

To assist educators who are actively involved in teaching family medicine residents in this area of practice, the CFPC's Program Development and Practice Support department has assembled a [variety of resources](#). For example:

- The Mainpro+® certified [Medical Abortion Training Program](#) (offered by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada)
- Articles in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada* (e.g., No. 360-Induced Abortion: Surgical Abortion and Second Trimester Medical Methods)
- A Canadian [online community of practice](#) that provides additional resources

Many [resources for patients](#) are also available on the CFPC website.

If you have any additional teaching resources that you would like to have highlighted or shared on this topic, please contact education@cfpc.ca.

Evaluation objectives

The CFPC *Priority Topics and Key Features* document does not explicitly identify abortion. However, embedded within existing evaluation objectives are elements that speak to care of patients and families regarding abortion:

- Sections for [pregnancy and contraception](#)
- Themes and observable behaviours for [professionalism](#)
- Themes and observable behaviours for [communication skills](#)

Other areas related, although not exclusive, to abortion include:

- Access and barriers to care
- Inter- and intraprofessional support when engaged in challenging discussions
- Approaches to care that embrace cultural safety
- Conscientious and conscience-based objection