



ESSENTIAL TRAINING

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS THROUGH ABORTION CARE

As OB/GYN physicians, we have a **professional and ethical duty to provide abortion care when necessary to save a pregnant person's life**. Abortion training also builds essential, transferable skills for OB/GYN practice. Proficiency in uterine evacuation, including cervical dilation and preparation, uterine aspiration, and dilation and evacuation, is critical for managing obstetric emergencies and providing patient-centered pregnancy loss care. Abortion training enhances technical competence, improves overall patient care, and is **assessed on written and oral OB/GYN board exams**.

This chart highlights key skills gained through abortion training that support interprofessional, respectful, and values-based care in future practice.

ABORTION CARE	TRANSFERABLE SKILL
History and physical examination	History taking, empathic communication, trauma-informed pelvic examination, uterine sizing
Pregnancy options and abortion counseling	Compassionate, non-directive counseling; shared decision-making; managing ethical dilemmas; professionalism
1st-trimester ultrasound	Pregnancy dating, identifying early pregnancy landmarks, understanding pregnancy of unknown location, diagnosing pregnancy loss and ectopic pregnancy
2nd-trimester ultrasound	Pregnancy dating, identifying abnormal placentation

ABORTION CARE

TRANSFERABLE SKILL

Local anesthesia placement	Managing pain for cervical and intrauterine procedures, such as IUD insertion, hysteroscopy, endometrial and cervical biopsy
Pain management	Managing light and moderate sedation in an outpatient setting, working with anesthesia care for providers to support patients with deeper sedation or regional anesthesia when needed
Cervical preparation and dilation	Using osmotic dilators, intracervical balloons, or medication to open the cervix slowly; mechanically dilating the cervix at the time of a procedure; these are relevant to induction of labor and induction termination, and other transcervical procedures requiring dilation such as IUD insertion or removal and hysteroscopy
Manual vacuum aspiration and electric vacuum aspiration	Uterine aspiration for miscarriage management or abnormal uterine bleeding
Dilation and evacuation	Removing a retained placenta at the bedside or in the operating room without needing manual removal, uterine evacuation in the setting of pregnancy complications such as PPROM and hemorrhage
Induction termination	Skills useful for termination and also for labor induction
Medication abortion	Medical management of miscarriage, cervical ripening using mifepristone
Post-abortion care	Supporting patients after pregnancy loss, recognizing and managing rare complications after pregnancy loss

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