A Tradition of Providing Primary Care to Women

- Preventive counseling and health education are essential and integral parts of the practice of obstetrician-gynecologists.\textsuperscript{i}
- During the annual well-woman examine, ob-gyns provide:
  - Screening
  - Evaluation
  - Counseling
  - Immunizations
- The annual exam provides an excellent opportunity to counsel patients about maintaining a healthy lifestyle and minimizing health risks.
- Ob-gyns focus on more than the reproductive system, providing:
  - Nutritional and exercise counseling
  - Cardiovascular disease screening
  - Diabetes screening, diagnosis, and management
  - Risk counseling and discussion of psychosocial topics, including mental health issues and substance use disorders
  - Cancer screening: colon, lung, breast, cervical, endometrial, and ovarian
- Family planning and sexually transmitted infection screening are strong components of preventive health care and central to well-woman care.\textsuperscript{ii}

Women’s Health Must Be Included in Medicaid Primary Care Access Program:

- Ob-gyns deliver primary and preventive care services to women; an ob-gyn is often the only doctor a woman sees on a regular basis.
- 35 state Medicaid programs already classify ob-gyns as primary care providers.\textsuperscript{iii}
- 12\% of women ages 18-64 rely on Medicaid for their health care coverage and more than 68\% of adult Medicaid beneficiaries are women.\textsuperscript{iv}
- Prior to the implementation of the Section 1202 Primary Care Access Program, many states reimbursed well below Medicare rates for primary care.
  - In 2012, Rhode Island’s Medicaid program paid only 33\% of Medicare reimbursement for primary care.\textsuperscript{v}
- Nationally, providers receive 67\% less in Medicaid reimbursement compared to Medicare for primary care services.\textsuperscript{vi}
- Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) may give 7 million more women health care coverage in 2014,\textsuperscript{vii} but will they be able to find a doctor?
Obstetrics and Gynecology Resident Training Requirements

Primary and Preventive Ambulatory Health Care

Ob-gyn residents are trained to treat women from adolescence through post-menopause.

Primary care is integral in ob-gyn training. Ob-gyn residents are trained to:

✓ Obtain a complete medical history, including a history of genetic diseases
✓ Perform an appropriate general or focused physical examination
✓ Develop & communicate an ongoing management plan for
the patient’s needs or concerns
✓ Perform routine, age-appropriate screenings for selected
diseases, including:
  ▪ Substance use
  ▪ Sexual and reproductive health and STIs
  ▪ Personal safety
  ▪ Psychosocial risks and well-being
  ▪ Nutrition and physical activity
  ▪ Breast disorders
  ▪ Risk assessments for cancer and cardiovascular
disease
  ▪ Vaccines
✓ Counsel patients on:
  ▪ Importance of healthy diet & exercise
  ▪ Risk factors & health problems associated with
    substance abuse
  ▪ Weight management
  ▪ Contraception
  ▪ Prevention of STIs
  ▪ Preserving good dental health
  ▪ Prevention of osteopenia and osteoporosis
  ▪ Psychosocial issues
  ▪ Sexual health & well-being

Provide front-line immunizations, such as:

▪ Hepatitis A & B
▪ Herpes zoster
▪ HPV
▪ Influenza
▪ Measles
▪ Meningitis
▪ Mumps
▪ Pneumococcal pneumonia
▪ Rubella
▪ Tdap
▪ Varicella

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1 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The Scope of Practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Approved by the Executive Board on February 6, 2005.
3 Based on ACOG review of state Medicaid regulations, statutes, and provider manuals.
6 Ibid.
8 CREOG. Educational Objectives: Core Curriculum in Obstetrics and Gynecology, 10th ed. 2013