

**OBSTETRICIAN-GYNECOLOGISTS ARE
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS**A Tradition of Providing Primary Care to Women

- Preventive counseling and health education are essential and integral parts of the practice of obstetrician-gynecologists.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.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.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.^{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.^v
- Nationally, providers receive 67% less in Medicaid reimbursement compared to Medicare for primary care services.^{vi}
- **Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) may give 7 million more women health care coverage in 2014,^{vii} but will they be able to find a doctor?**



Obstetrics and Gynecology Resident Training Requirements

PRIMARY AND PREVENTIVE AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE^{viii}

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

ⁱ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The Scope of Practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Approved by the Executive Board on February 6, 2005.

ⁱⁱ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Guidelines for Women's Health Care – 4th Edition.

ⁱⁱⁱ Based on ACOG review of state Medicaid regulations, statutes, and provider manuals.

^{iv} National Women's Law Center. Battles Over Medicaid Funding and Eligibility: What's At Stake for Women. <http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/national.pdf>.

^v Kaiser Family Foundation. Medicaid-to-Medicare Fee Index. <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/medicaid-to-medicare-fee-index/>

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} Kenney, GM, et al. (2012). Opting in to the Medicaid expansion under the ACA: Who are the uninsured adults who could gain health insurance coverage? Timely Analysis of Immediate Health Policy Issues. <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412630-opting-in-medicare.pdf>.

^{viii} CREOG. *Educational Objectives: Core Curriculum in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 10th ed. 2013