

Clinicians for Choice E-Newsletter

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CLINICIANS
FOR CHOICE

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Dates to Remember

**NAF's Risk Management Seminar
Fall, 2010**

CFC Mission

Clinicians for Choice supports the greater involvement of certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants in all aspects of abortion service delivery.

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Policy Updates

New Supreme Court Justice

On August 7th, Elena Kagan was sworn in as the newest Justice on the Supreme Court. With the addition of Kagan, three women now sit on the Supreme Court for the first time in history. Kagan formerly served as both Solicitor General and Dean of Harvard Law School, the first woman to hold either of those positions. The vote to confirm Kagan was 63-37, with anti-choice Senator Ben Nelson the sole Democratic Senator to vote against her.

Health Care Reform

After a nearly year-long debate, Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the first major health care reform initiative in decades. During Congress' consideration of the bill there were numerous attempts to limit women's access to abortion care. The most extreme anti-choice effort was led by Representative Bart Stupak (D-MI). The proposed Stupak amendment would have essentially barred coverage of abortion by health insurance plans operating in the newly created exchanges. After the Senate defeated a version of the Stupak amendment, it passed another anti-choice provision authored by Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE). Unfortunately, the Nelson amendment was included in the law that President Obama signed. The amendment's primary restriction is a "two check" policy that requires a separate payment for premiums for abortion coverage.

This summer, as part of the Obama Administration's implementation of the new law, the Department of Health and Human Services issued regulations that would prohibit coverage of abortion care in the newly-created high risk pools, which are designed to serve individuals with pre-existing conditions. This restriction on abortion care was not required by the law itself and creates an additional burden to coverage for women who are often at the highest risk for abnormal pregnancies and fetal anomalies.

For more information on health care reform, please visit www.prochoice.org.

Upcoming Conferences

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

Atlanta, GA
September 22-25, 2010

Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

Palm Desert, CA
October 13-16, 2010

NAF's Risk Management Seminar

Fall, 2010

For more information, please e-mail meetings@prochoice.org

American Public Health Association

Denver, CO

November 6-10, 2010

Medical Students for Choice

Fall, 2010

For more information, please see www.ms4c.org

*Nursing students are encouraged to attend!

Are you a CFC member?

Although you may consider yourself part of the Clinicians for Choice community, you may not be an official member of CFC.

NAF is dedicated to supporting your work by providing this special forum for you to come together to discuss the issues that affect you and your profession, and to work towards the greater involvement of NPs, CNMs, and PAs in all aspects of abortion care. **Your membership in CFC is vital to our efforts to continue to provide essential resources and advocacy for NPs, CNMs, and PAs.**

Yearly NAF membership dues for CFC are \$50 and benefits include:

- Discounts on registration fees to NAF's educational conferences, as well as discounts on valuable NAF clinical, legal, and patient education publications;
- Access to NAF's newsletters, membership alerts, and legislative and clinic support updates, as well as NAF's on-line special interest discussion groups;
- Eligibility to serve on NAF's Board of Directors and on Clinicians for Choice's Advisory Committee; and
- Continuing education and networking opportunities with other NPs, CNMs, and PAs.

To learn more about Clinicians for Choice membership or to learn your membership status, please contact Emily Kane-Lee, CFC's Coordinator, at ekanelee@prochoice.org or Alexis Zepeda, NAF's Membership Director, at azepeda@prochoice.org.

Resource Corner

NAF's Values Clarification Workshop

Welcome to the newest CFC newsletter feature: The Resource Corner!

This section will feature new and immersing resources that are applicable for pro-choice NPs, CNMs, and PAs.

Please send resources you have created and would like to have included in this section to Emily Kane-Lee, CFC's Coordinator, at ekanelee@prochoice.org

Values clarification is an essential part of training for health care providers. This is especially true for health care professionals who deal with controversial or emotionally charged topics such as abortion. In spite of our efforts at objectivity, we all hold personal values that can influence how we respond to patients, clients, and other individuals with whom we interact.

NAF offers a values clarification workshop, which is flexible, both in terms of timing and content. A typical workshop lasts 90 minutes to two hours and incorporates a number of different activities to encourage participants to think about and articulate their attitudes and opinions related to pregnancy options and abortion. Topics addressed include:

- articulating the reasons behind their views about various aspects of abortion;
- risk taking-behavior and its relationship to unintended pregnancy;
- examining comfort level with gestational age;
- examining comfort level with circumstances of each woman's abortion decision;
- individual cases—examining potential biases;
- pregnancy options decision making;
- personal assessment of professional obligations;
- the decision to provide abortion care—motivation and obstacles; &
- understanding perspectives on abortion-related state and federal laws.

The workshop facilitator can work closely with you to develop a workshop tailored to best meet the needs of your group. To organize a workshop or to learn more, please contact Emily Kane-Lee at ekanelee@prochoice.org.

Providing Abortion Care:

A Professional Toolkit for Nurse-Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants

Launched last year as a joint project of AAP, ANSIRH, and NAF, this toolkit informs, supports, and catalyzes efforts to promote the provision of abortion by NPs, CNMs, and PAs.

The *Toolkit* includes essential information and statistics about:

- Abortion and access to abortion
- Professional regulation, competencies, and responsibilities
- The roles of state and national professional organizations and state licensing boards

The *Toolkit* helps clinicians compile crucial evidence and documentation to support the integration of early abortion care by guiding clinicians in the development of a professional portfolio which documents:

- Basic and abortion-specialty education, knowledge, and training
- The clinical and professional standards they use in providing safe care

The *Toolkit* also includes case studies to provide strategies for success.

To access the Toolkit, please visit www.apctoolkit.org.



Call for Proposals: NAF's annual NP, CNM, PA conference

Clinicians for Choice requests proposals for presentations for our third annual daylong conference devoted specifically to the needs of NPs/PAs/CNMs at the National Abortion Federation (NAF) meeting next spring.

Please consider submitting a proposal for presentations with a focus on scholarship and original research, skills building, scope of practice, or clinical topics. Formats may include panel presentations, individual presentations, workshops, round table discussions, case studies, or other formats. Abstracts can range from 75-300 words in length and should include the estimated amount of time needed for the presentation, although your presentation might be combined with another presentation.

November 5th: Deadline for abstract submissions

Submit a proposal to Emily Kane-Lee at ekanelee@prochoice.org. Please title any attachments with your name, the name of your proposal, contact information, and specify CFC conference.

CFC Advisory Committee Updates

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new CFC Advisory Committee members Nikole Gettings, CNM, and Timothy Quigley, PA. We would also like to welcome recent graduate, Annelle Taylor, NP, to the newly created Advisory Committee position of *Student Liaison*.

CFC wishes best of luck to outgoing Advisory Committee members Kirsten Thomsen and Diana Taylor. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to Clinicians for Choice. We will miss you!

Did you know you too can take an active lead in Clinicians for Choice? Look for more information about how you can join the CFC Advisory Committee in future CFC newsletters and e-mails.

In an effort to provide you with a useful resource, we would like to know what you think about the CFC newsletter. Please feel free to send your comments and suggestions to Emily Kane-Lee at ekanelee@prochoice.org.

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