

Clinicians for Choice Abstract

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Workshop Title

The ROE Consortium for Nursing: An Innovative Program to Increase Reproductive Options Education Curricula in Nursing

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Abstract

Nurses are intimately involved in providing reproductive health care to women in a wide variety of settings. At times, providing care to these women can be deeply challenging, as professional responsibilities and personal beliefs may come into conflict. Yet, few nursing training programs offer opportunities for their students or trainees to explore the intersection of their professional role and personal beliefs with regard to reproductive options. As a result, nurses may inadvertently provide care that is biased, judgmental, or directive--in short, that does not serve the needs of the patient or uphold her autonomy.

This presentation will describe the Reproductive Options Education Consortium for Nursing (the ROE Consortium)¹, a pilot project that provides training, quality teaching materials, and support to nursing faculty and trainers across the United States. The presentation will focus on unintended pregnancy as one example of reproductive options-related care. A theoretical framework for teaching about reproductive options that draws from literature on teaching about sensitive subjects will be discussed, as well as information about resources that are available to assist those who teach or train nurses about reproductive options. Finally, participants will be invited to engage in an interactive exercise that can be used to help nurses better understand the intersection of their personal beliefs and professional responsibilities, and ultimately provide women with the quality reproductive health care that they deserve.

¹ The Reproductive Options Education Consortium for Nursing. <http://www.abortionaccess.org/viewpages.php?id=202>.