

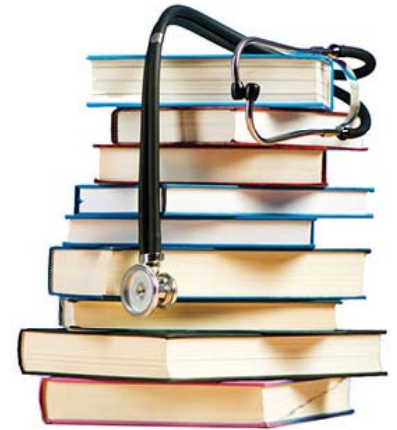
The Value of Evidence-Based Medicine in Establishing Ob-Gyn Clinical Practice Guidelines

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ACOG
THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

What is evidence-based medicine?

- ACOG practice guidelines updated regularly and based on:
 - ✓ The best available scientific data and medical research
 - ✓ Patient safety
 - ✓ Medical costs
- Concrete Evidence → Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Practice guidelines = standard of care
 - ✓ Improve quality of health care
 - ✓ Decrease costs



EXAMPLE: Pap Smear Recommendations

Historically, cervical cancer screening was done via **annual** pap smear.

Recent research found that annual screening was ineffective at providing a statistically significant improvement in diagnoses or outcomes when compared with **screening every 3-5 years**.

Thus, ACOG **updated** guidelines in 2012 to recommend cervical cancer screening:

- Beginning at age 21
- Every 3 years, given normal results



Why is this important?

- Decreased variation in care across regions and health systems leads to **higher quality of care** and **cost savings**.
- Quality of care linked to **accurate reimbursement**
 - ✓ Ex: Medicare payment reform



It is **critical** that doctors who are providing quality care are protected from unfair or illegitimate lawsuits.

So what's the problem?

We know that even in providing the very best care, bad outcomes can occur.

Let's return to the pap smear example...



Physicians should be able to rely on their adherence to evidence-based guidelines to protect them from liability.

The Need for Medical Liability Reform

The current system:

- Is deterrent to the practice of ob-gyn
- Encourages defensive medicine (higher costs)
- Contributes to the ob-gyn workforce shortage



Obstetric care now has the highest insurance costs in the medical profession.

A commonsense solution...

Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act

H.R. 2603

Provides physicians subject to a medical malpractice lawsuit the option of a “safe harbor” based on adherence to clinical practice guidelines

Safe harbors will do three important things:

- Promote **adherence** to quality-promoting guidelines;
- Help **reduce costs** by reducing use of defensive medicine; and
- Help **eliminate** frivolous **lawsuits**.



Questions?