

## **Approaches to difficult cases: An overview of existing resources offering guidance**



The focus of this video is to provide an overview of existing resources offering guidance for how to manage difficult scenarios.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this video, you should be able to:

- List key resources that can be utilized when confronted with challenging clinical scenarios

### **KEY RESOURCES**

Abortion clinicians and trainers from the fields of Ob/Gyn, Family Medicine, Nursing, and Counseling have developed excellent resources that you may find useful as you begin working in a new clinic. Links to all of the websites that I will mention can be found on the Resources page of The Abortion Clinic Toolkit website.

First is the National Abortion Federation Online Learning Platform. If you are completing this curriculum in order, then you will have already visited this learning platform. If not, and if you need help obtaining a login to access the platform, visit the Start Here page of The Abortion Clinic Toolkit website.

#### ***National Abortion Federation***

The National Abortion Federation has recently developed numerous self-paced online learning modules, webinars, and resources. These materials are interactive and focus on practices to improve the quality of abortion care.

Some modules, webinars, and resources that may be of greatest interest as you begin working in an abortion clinic include:

#### **Self-Paced Modules**

- Management of Pregnancy of Uncertain Location
- Moderate Sedation for Abortion Care
- How do lead a Values Clarification session

#### **Webinars**

- Placental Localization
- Ultrasound in Abortion Care

#### **Resources**

- Medical Abortion Consent Form and Fact Sheets
- Moderate Sedation Guidelines

### **Textbook**

A related resource is the 2009 textbook published by the National Abortion Federation titled *Management of Unintended and Abnormal Pregnancy: Comprehensive Abortion Care*. Although it was published about a decade ago, many pearls remain relevant and many clinics have copies of it. The following chapters may be particularly helpful:

- Chapter 5 on Informed Consent, Patient Education, and Counseling
  - which includes many sample responses to difficult questions
- Chapter 8 on Pain Management
  - which includes answers to 8 challenging clinical scenarios, such as:
    - What to do if a patient experiences circumoral numbness and ringing in her ears soon after an injection with lidocaine
    - What to consider in selecting and administering safe pain control options for an asthmatic patient
    - What to do for moderate sedation in a patient who has an opioid use disorder
- Chapter 13 on The Challenging Abortion
  - which includes approaches to technical and management challenges such as extreme flexion, uterine anomalies, and difficult removal of osmotic dilators

### **TEACH – Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare**

Another resource to point you to is the website of TEACH. TEACH stands for Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare and is a program founded by Family Medicine clinicians, based out of the UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health. The website for TEACH is [teachtraining.org](http://teachtraining.org).

- On the website, you can find the **Early Abortion Training Workbook**, a comprehensive, free downloadable guide that was updated in 2016.
- This workbook can be useful for your own review and also for training medical students, residents, or other clinicians.
  - Here is a quick look at relevant parts of the workbook.
- Within the workbook, each chapter has real-life tricky clinical scenarios and related teaching points
  - For example, in the section on tricky scenarios after aspiration, there is a review of what to do when you don't find sac or villi in the aspirate, and when a patient calls in with ongoing pregnancy symptoms weeks after the abortion
- Also on the website, under the "Training // Workshops for you to use" section, you can find several teaching tools, such as a **how-to guide for running simulated emergency scenarios**. For example,
  - In the Syncope or Vasovagal Episode scenario, there are descriptions of the various roles to be played and a debrief answer sheet to review key management steps.
  - There are also scenarios focused on shortness of breath, seizure, chest pain, bomb threat, patient visitor disruption, and fire.

### ***Many other resources***

Finally, *The Abortion Clinic Toolkit* website Resources section has additional links to many other excellent resources.

- Two websites to highlight on this list are:
  - **The Reproductive Health Access Project**, at reproductiveaccess.org
    - You can find numerous patient education sheets in various languages and algorithms that are helpful for clinicians, such as how to triage a patient phone call about bleeding with medication abortion
  - **Innovating Education in Reproductive Health**, at innovating-education.org
    - This site contains comprehensive video courses on abortion, early pregnancy loss, LARC insertion and removal, and options counseling
    - There are also additional links from here specifically focused on education around contraception.

### **CONCLUSION**

We hope this video has helped expand your own personal toolkit. There is a lot information that will help you in your work that your colleagues have already developed. If you know of other resources or want helping finding a particular resource, please reach out to us at [The Abortion Clinic Toolkit](#).

Thank you for viewing this presentation! For more information, please visit please visit [The Abortion Clinic Toolkit](#) and [Innovating Education in Reproductive Health](#).