

The Role of Obstetrician-Gynaecologists in Canada

This policy statement was prepared by the Executive and approved by the Council of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

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Provision of optimal reproductive health care for women living in Canada and their families is the ultimate goal of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Obstetrician-gynaecologists have advanced training and skills in the provision of reproductive care that enables them to function as consultants for a broad range of obstetrical and gynaecological concerns.

Increasingly, obstetrician-gynaecologists are called upon to act as primary care providers as other health care providers

choose to leave the practice of obstetrics. In many areas, the demand for consultations by obstetrician-gynaecologists is insufficient to sustain the minimum number of obstetrician-gynaecologists (usually three or more) required to provide 24-hour consultant access unless those obstetrician-gynaecologists are also directly involved in primary care obstetrics and gynaecology. Women should have the right to consult an obstetrician-gynaecologist, or request referral by their primary health care provider, for their reproductive needs in areas where obstetricians and gynaecologists have advanced training in women's health, specifically in obstetrics and gynaecology, sexuality and fertility, contraception, oncology, maternal fetal medicine, urogynaecology and menstrual dysfunction, sexually transmitted infections, and climacteric concerns.

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