

# Canmeds Objectives of Training and Specialty Requirements for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Rotation University Alberta 2017

## Objectives of Training

### DEFINITION

A specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology is a physician with special education and expertise in the field of women's health and reproduction. He/she has the appropriate medical, surgical and obstetrical and gynaecologic knowledge and skills for the prevention, diagnosis and management of a broad range of conditions affecting women's reproductive health. As well as providing clinical care and education in normal and complicated obstetrics and gynaecology, he/she may contribute significantly to research.

Two levels of knowledge and proficiency are referred to in this document.

An *extensive level* refers to an in-depth understanding of an area, from basic science to clinical application, and possession of skills to manage independently a problem in the area.

A *working level* indicates a level of knowledge sufficient for the clinical management of a condition, and/or an understanding of an approach or technique sufficient to counsel and recommend it, without having personally achieved mastery of that approach or technique.

## General Objectives

Management of a patient in REI will require that the resident has the ability to:

1. take a history of the patient's problem
2. conduct a complete physical examination
3. demonstrate an understanding of the value and significance of laboratory, radiological and other diagnostic studies
4. discuss the relative merits of various treatment alternatives
5. list and discuss the indications, contraindications, types, variations, complications, and risks and benefits of surgical and non-surgical treatments
6. discuss the significance of perioperative and postoperative problems that might arise following surgery on the genitourinary tract

## 1. Medical Expert / Clinical Decision-Maker

### *Definition*

Obstetricians and gynaecologists possess a defined body of knowledge and procedural skills which are used to collect and interpret data, make appropriate clinical decisions, and carry out diagnostic and therapeutic procedures within the boundaries of their discipline and expertise. Their care is characterized by up-to-date, ethical, and cost-effective clinical practice and effective communication in partnership with patients, other health care providers, and the community. The role of *medical expert/clinical decision-maker* is central to the function of obstetricians and gynaecologists, and draws on the competencies included in the roles of scholar, communicator, health advocate, manager, collaborator, and professional.

### 1.1 *General Objectives*

The fully-trained obstetrician and gynaecologist must demonstrate:

- diagnostic and therapeutic skills for effective and ethical patient care
- the ability to access and apply relevant information to clinical practice
- effective consultation services with respect to patient care, education, media relations and legal opinions
- recognition of personal limitations of expertise, including the need for appropriate patient referral and continuing medical education

### 1.2 *Specific Objectives*

In order to achieve these objectives, the resident must demonstrate both knowledge (cognitive skill) and technical ability in the approach to problems in the practice of reproductive endocrinology and infertility (REI).

#### 1.2.1 COGNITIVE SKILLS

The fully-trained obstetrician and gynaecologist will possess knowledge of the following clinical conditions or problems encountered commonly in the practice of REI. This list should be considered in its totality, and not be considered as comprehensive for all disorders in the practice of this specialty.

**1.2.1.1** An *extensive level* of knowledge is required for the following:

- a. *Reproduction and Endocrine Disorders*
  - normal reproductive physiology, and;

The pathophysiology, investigation, diagnosis, and/or management of:

- menstrual irregularity
- amenorrhea (primary and secondary)
- dysfunctional uterine bleeding
- galactorrhea
- hirsutism
- polycystic ovarian disease
- premature ovarian insufficiency
- menopause and urogenital aging, including;
  - management, risk, and benefits of hormonal and non-hormonal treatment approaches

**b. *Infertility***

- complex etiology of infertility
- interpretation of tests and procedures, including hormonal evaluation, semen analysis, ovulation prediction, endometrial biopsy, hysterosalpingography and both hysteroscopy and laparoscopy
- the effectiveness and complications of current standard treatments for infertility, as well as appropriate indications for subspecialty referral
- etiology and management of ovulatory disorders, including the role of clomiphene citrate, letrozole, and progestogens

**c. *Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology***

The pathophysiology, investigation, diagnosis, management and/or possible psychosocial ramifications of:

- developmental anomalies
- precocious and delayed puberty
- abnormal vaginal discharge and bleeding in the child or adolescent
- contraception and adolescent pregnancy
- the medico-legal aspects of consent and confidentiality specific to this age group

**d. *Contraception***

- methods of contraception, including the various mechanisms of action, and the indications, contraindications, risks and benefits, and possible complications for use of each method
- strategies to promote adherence to contraceptive methods and encourage safe sex behaviours

*e. Pregnancy Loss*

The pathophysiology, investigation, diagnosis, and/or management of:

- spontaneous abortion in the first trimester
- ectopic pregnancy
- recurrent pregnancy loss

A *working level* of knowledge is required for the following:

*a. Infertility*

- complex regimens for ovulation induction using GnRH analogues and gonadotropins
- assisted reproductive technologies currently available, including IUI, IVF and ICSI, including their comparative success and complication profiles
- appropriate indications for referral for such technologies including use of donor gametes
- appropriate indications for use of preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) and preimplantation genetic screening (PGS)

## **2. Communicator**

### ***Definition***

To provide humane, high-quality care, obstetricians and gynaecologists establish effective relationships with patients, other physicians, and other health professionals. Communication skills are essential for obtaining information from, and conveying information to patients and their families. Furthermore, these abilities are critical in eliciting patients' beliefs, concerns, and expectations about their illnesses, and for assessing key factors impacting on patients' health.

### ***2.1 General Objectives***

The fully-trained obstetrician and gynaecologist must be able to:

- establish therapeutic relationships with patients and their families characterized by understanding, trust, empathy, and confidentiality
- obtain and synthesize relevant history from patients, families, and/or community
- discuss appropriate information with the patient, her family, and other health care providers that facilitates optimal health care. This also implies the ability to maintain clear, accurate, timely and appropriate records

### ***2.2 Specific Objectives***

To achieve these objectives the REI resident must demonstrate:

- 2.2.1** the ability to obtain informed consent for medical and surgical therapies

- 2.2.2 the ability to record accurately and succinctly data collected from patients, laboratory tests and radiological studies and to communicate (oral or written) conclusions based on these data to patients and their families, referring physicians and other involved health care personnel
- 2.2.3 evidence of good interpersonal skills when working with patients, families, and other members of the health care team
- 2.2.4 an awareness of the unique personal, psychosocial, cultural and ethical issues that surround individual patients with reproductive and sexual disorders including the ability to take a sexual history in a non-judgmental fashion
- 2.2.5 the ability to prepare and present information to colleagues and other trainees (if applicable) both informally (e.g., ward rounds) and formally (e.g., Grand Rounds, scientific meetings)
- 2.2.6 the ability to provide information to the public and media about areas of local concern relevant to the practice of REI and sexual medicine

## 6. Scholar

### *Definition*

Obstetricians and gynaecologists must engage in a lifelong pursuit of mastery of their domain of professional expertise. They recognize the need to be continually learning and model this for others. Through their scholarly activities, they contribute to the appraisal, collection, and understanding of health care knowledge for women, and facilitate the education of their students, patients, and others.

### 6.1 *General Objectives*

The fully-trained obstetrician and gynaecologist must:

- develop, implement, and monitor a personal continuing education strategy
- critically appraise sources of medical information
- facilitate patient and peer education
- try to contribute to the development of new knowledge in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology

### 6.2 *Specific Objectives*

In order to achieve these general objectives the REI resident must:

- 6.2.1 develop a habit of life-long learning, utilizing information technology for referencing cases, literature review and participation in basic or applied clinical research

- 6.2.2 identify gaps in personal knowledge and skill, and develop strategies to correct them by self-directed reading, discussion with colleagues, and ongoing procedural experience
- 6.2.3 understand the principles of basic and applied clinical research, including biostatistics
- 6.2.4 be able to critically appraise and summarize the literature on a given subject, and judge whether a research project or publication is sound, ethical, unbiased and clinically valuable

## 7. Professional

### *Definition*

Obstetricians and gynaecologists have a unique societal role as professionals with a distinct body of knowledge, skills, and attitudes dedicated to improving the health and well-being of women. They are committed to the highest standards of excellence in clinical care and ethical conduct, and to continually perfecting mastery of their discipline.

### *7.1 General Objectives*

The fully-trained obstetrician and gynaecologist must:

- deliver the highest quality of medical care with integrity, honesty, compassion, and respect
- exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours
- practice medicine in a way that is consistent with the ethical obligations of a physician

### *7.2 Specific Objectives*

In order to achieve these general objectives the REI resident must:

- 7.2.1 foster a caring, compassionate and respectful attitude towards patients, families, and other members of the health care team
- 7.2.2 provide medical care that is ethical, and seek advice or second opinion appropriately in ethically difficult situations
- 7.2.3 monitor patients appropriately and provide appropriate follow up medical care, particularly after starting a new treatment or following a surgical procedure

- 7.2.4** maintain patient confidentiality at all times
- 7.2.5** complete reports, letters and summaries in a timely fashion and maintain medical records that are consistently accurate, informative and legible.
- 7.2.6** understand medical protective procedures and the role of the Canadian Medical Protective Association in areas of patient-physician dispute
- 7.2.7** be able to deal with professional intimidation and harassment
- 7.2.8** show self-discipline, responsibility and punctuality in attending to ward duties, in the operating room, and at meetings and other activities
- 7.2.9** be a moral and ethical role model for others
- 7.2.10** be able to appropriately delegate clinical and administrative responsibilities
- 7.2.11** maintain an ability to balance professional and personal life