School of Medicine

Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health Ryan Residency Training Program in Family Planning

I. Program Background

Prior to the start of the Ryan Residency Training Program at the University of Louisville (UofL), the OBGYN residency program provided opt-in training to learn abortion care procedures and techniques at EMW Women's Surgical Center in Louisville, KY. Very few residents took advantage of the opportunity to learn medical and surgical abortions counseling and procedures. From 2004-2008, two residents out of 24 participated in this educational opportunity. Since implementation of the Ryan Training program, every resident is expected to participate in training as part of the Family Planning rotation which provides a complete range of involvement for residents and medical students.

II. Program Overview

The goal of the Ryan Residency Training Program is to provide formal training in contraception, family planning, and medical and surgical pregnancy terminations. At the start of the program July 1, 2011, this formal training was combined with the Postgraduate Year 2 (PGY-2) Reproductive Endocrinology (REI) rotation that was a total of eight weeks. The first four weeks were designated for Family Planning training for UofL OB/GYN Residents. The rotation has evolved and now serves as a standalone four-week rotation for UofL residents.

The Family Planning rotation also provides training to the University of Kentucky (UK) residents. This rotation is combined with the "Norton Hospital OB" five-week block rotation for PGY-2 and PGY-3 residents. The rotation provides didactic sessions and patient care opportunities to learn first trimester and second trimester ultrasound dating, electric and manual vacuum aspiration, dilation and evacuation, paracervical analgesia administration, intravenous sedation administration, medical abortion, medical and surgical management of failed pregnancy, and contraception counseling.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has established the expectation that each resident will participate in the Family Planning rotation. Expected participation includes attendance at EMW Women's Surgical Center, the private abortion clinic. This expectation also applies to residents who opt-out of direct abortion provision.

For one academic year 2012-2013, the Ryan Program provided training to the UofL Department of Pediatric (Peds) Residents. The Ryan Program rotation for Peds residents is for all residents, primarily PGY-1 and PGY-3, rotating through the "Adolescent Pediatric Rotation" for the calendar month. Since July 1, 2015 the UofL Family Medicine residents have rotated in the Ryan Family Planning Clinic on Monday mornings as a part of their "Women's Health Rotation".

Service Overview

U of L Obstetrics and Gynecology

Family planning services available at the UofL Health Sciences Center Campus includes comprehensive contraceptive services, medical and surgical management of miscarriage, and surgical induced abortion in cases of fetal anomalies and maternal health indications on a case-by-case basis. Induced abortions without medical indications are not permitted on the University campus. Services are primarily provided in the office setting. However, therapeutic abortion procedures occur solely in the hospital setting.