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Development of a Report on the Current Medical Liability Crisis for Obstetrician-Gynecologists of New York State

Author (s)

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Background: The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) District II/NY is a national private, voluntary, non-profit organization that is dedicated to advancing women's health through education (both patient and provider), advocacy, practice, and research. The national office is located in Washington, DC. Quality women's health care depends on obstetricians and gynecologists. The current medical liability crisis in New York State is putting a huge strain on ob-gyns. Some have been forced to give up their obstetric practices because of the high liability premiums that have become impossible for them to afford.

Objectives: To identify trending related to higher liability premiums and the number of ob-gyns leaving the state; eliminating obstetrics from their practice; eliminating high risk obstetric cases from their practice, etc. This data is to be developed into a report for lobbying purposes, but has also been used for press releases, newsletter pieces and information used at ACOG's Lobby Day on March 4, 2008.

Methods: Researching, interpreting and compiling data related to the medical liability crisis that Fellows of ACOG District II/NY (ob-gyns) are now facing. Data is coming from the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS), the NSYDOH, the Medical Society of the State of NY (MSSNY), the Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company (MLMIC), surveys conducted by ACOG, as well as several other sources. This data is being developed into a report to be used for lobbying purposes.