

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

PURPOSE

The District recognizes that every individual has the fundamental right to have access to all forms of reproductive healthcare, except as specifically limited by law. As a public hospital district which provides maternity care, the District recognizes its obligation to also provide women otherwise eligible for maternity services with substantially equivalent benefits, services, and information regarding infertility treatment, contraceptive options, referrals for adoption, and voluntary termination services. The district recognizes all Washingtonians, regardless of gender identity, should be free from discrimination in the provision of healthcare services. This policy specifically addresses how the District will provide substantially equivalent benefits, services, or information to individuals who choose to pursue infertility treatment or who are considering contraception, adoption, or voluntary termination of a pregnancy.

POLICY

Definitions:

- A. RCW 9.02.100, Reproductive privacy—Public Policy: the sovereign people hereby declare that every individual possesses a fundamental right of privacy with respect to personal reproductive decisions. Accordingly, it is the public policy of the state of Washington that:
1. Every individual has the fundamental right to choose or refuse birth control;
 2. Every woman has the fundamental right to choose or refuse to have an abortion, except as specifically limited by RCW 9.02.100 through 9.02.170 and 9.02.900 through 9.02.902;
 3. Except as specifically permitted by RCW 9.02.100 through 9.02.170 and 9.02.900 through 9.02.902, the state shall not deny or interfere with a woman's fundamental right to choose or refuse to have an abortion; and

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4. The state shall not discriminate against the exercise of these rights in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services or information.

B. RCW 9.02.150, Refusing to perform:

No person or private medical facility may be required by law or contract in any circumstances to participate in the performance of an abortion if such person or private medical facility objects to so doing. No person may be discriminated against in employment or professional privileges because of the person's participation or refusal to participate in the termination of a pregnancy. Involuntary abortion, ex., "missed abortion", incomplete abortion, may be necessary as an urgent or emergent procedure and is excluded from this policy. See Neonatal Death-Fetal Demise policy.

Procedures:

In the case of sexual assault, within 72 hours, Plan B is available in the Emergency Department.

Individuals requesting information on adoption services will be provided a list of resources and directed to Discharge Planning for further assistance.

If an individual has a need for infertility treatment beyond the scope of expertise of the District's providers, the patient will be given a referral for one or more providers specializing in infertility.

Individuals requesting information about contraception will be given information on all available forms of contraception. If the individual chooses a form of contraception requiring insertion by a provider, an appointment will be made to provide such service at the next mutually agreeable date and time. Some forms of contraception can be safely given prior to discharge as determined by providers on an individual basis.

If an individual decides to voluntarily terminate their pregnancy, they will be provided with appropriate external and internal referrals to qualified providers, information and educational material to assist them to voluntarily terminate their pregnancy.

If an individual seeking any reproductive services is medically indigent, then that individual shall be referred to MGH In-Person Assister/Navigator, who will assist the individual in obtaining medical coverage, such as Apple Health or a Qualified Health Plan [QHP]. In situations where appropriate primary payment sources are not available, patients will be considered for financial assistance.

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References

[RCW 9.02](#); [RCW 9.02.150](#); [RCW 9.02.100](#); [9.02.150](#); [RCW 9.02.160](#)

Additional information

[MGH&FC Financial Assistance for the Uninsured and Underinsured](#)

[MGH&FC Reasonable Accommodation](#)