



Reproductive Health Policy

Purpose

Provide general guidance in the area of reproductive health which aligns with the mission of Astria Sunnyside Hospital and complies with RCW 09.160, WAC 246-320-370, & WAC 182-531-1550

Audience

Family Birth Center Staff

Emergency Department Staff

Key Concepts and Terms

- Emergency Contraception: A Birth control method to prevent pregnancy in women
- Sterilization: Any medical procedure, treatment, or operation for the purpose of rendering a client permanently incapable of reproducing.
- Tubal Ligation: A form of Sterilization. Procedure where the fallopian tubes are cut or blocked to permanently prevent pregnancy.
- EDD: Estimated Date of Delivery

Policy

- Astria Sunnyside Hospital supports the hospital's obligations under WAC 246-320-370 for emergency contraception provisions for sexual assault victims. The Emergency Department (ED) must provide emergency contraception as a treatment option to any woman who seeks treatment as a result of a sexual assault. The Emergency Department provider must provide each patient with medically and factually accurate and unbiased written and oral information about emergency contraception per state law.
- If a patient seeks non-emergent medical care not offered at Sunnyside Community Hospital, staff will provide referral assistance to obtain the requested medical care.

- Tubal Ligations or bilateral salpingectomies are performed at Sunnyside Community Hospital under the following conditions.
 - The patient is at least eighteen years of age when consent form is signed.
 - The patient is a mentally competent individual
 - The patient has voluntarily given informed consent
 - The consent must be signed at least thirty days and not more than one hundred eighty days before the date of the sterilization procedure.
 - The physician must complete and sign the physician statement on the consent form within thirty days of the sterilization procedure.
 - A seventy-two hour waiting period rather than the usual thirty-day waiting period for sterilization is allowed in either of the following circumstances:
 - At the time of a premature delivery when the client gave consent at least thirty days before the expected date of delivery. (The EDD must be documented on the consent form)
 - For emergency abdominal surgery. (The nature of the emergency must be described on the consent form.)
 - The thirty day consent waiting period for sterilization will be waived when the patient requests that sterilization be performed at the time of delivery and completes a sterilization consent form only in the following circumstances:
 - Patient did not obtain medical care until the last month of pregnancy
 - Patient was a substance abuser during pregnancy, but is not using alcohol or illegal drugs at the time of delivery
 - Sterilization Consents will **NOT** be accepted when the patient is:
 - In labor or childbirth
 - Under the influence of alcohol or other substances, including pain medications for labor and delivery, that affects the client’s state of awareness.
 - Patients who have previously signed consent for sterilization may change their mind at any time to not have the procedure

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- If a patients states she does not want the procedure, the sterilization consent is to be considered voided.
 - If the patient later states that she does want sterilization procedure, a new sterilization consent should be completed and the required waiting period starts over.

Related Documents

[Collection Procedure Sexual Assault Exam](#)

[Scope of Service Guidelines Family Birth Center](#)

References

RCW 9.02 and WAC 246-320-370

WAC 182-531-1550 retrieved on 8-3-16 from

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=182-531-1550>

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