

SEXUAL ABUSE BY PHYSICIANS

This Policy Statement was reviewed and approved by the Executive and Council of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada in March 2003.

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) acknowledges and deplores the fact that incidents of physicians abusing patients do occur, and declares that such misconduct should not be tolerated. These incidents include “sexual impropriety” due to poor clinical skills, chauvinism, or abuse of the power relationship, *and* outright systematic sexual abuse. The SOGC supports the right of all women to receive informed, safe, and gender-sensitive obstetrical and gynaecological care and the right of victims of abuse to receive prompt treatment. The SOGC supports the identification, discipline, and, where possible, rehabilitation of the perpetrators of sexual abuse.

The SOGC encourages individuals, medical schools, licensing bodies, and professional organizations to assess their attitudes, educational programmes, and disciplinary processes in order to promote professional behaviour and protect the doctor/patient relationship.

This Policy Statement supersedes Policy Statement No. 11 dated September 1992.

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