ABORTION POLICY

Law:
Louisiana statutes specifically and expressly forbid any person employed by the State in a state health care facility to perform any abortion for any reason other than to prevent the death of the mother or in cases of rape or incest.

Purpose:
To define the abortion policy by the Louisiana Health and Human Resources Administration.

Policy:
1. A female patient, married or unmarried, who presents herself at LSUHSC-S with a complaint of being pregnant and requests an abortion, is to be evaluated as any other pregnant patient.

2. A patient requesting an abortion shall be appropriately tested, and if pregnant, referred to the OB Clinic. If, after evaluation, the attending physician believes the maternal risk of allowing the pregnancy to continue has a greater than 50% chance of causing the death of the mother, and a second member of the OB/GYN faculty concurs, the abortion may be performed in the University Hospital. Careful documentation must be entered in the patient’s medical record and signed by both physicians.

3. A patient requesting abortion for reasons of rape or incest shall satisfy LA Revised Statutes LA 40: 1299.34.5 and 40: 1299.35.7.

4. A minor, unmarried female does not require parental consent, nor does a married female need spousal consent for medical services related to pregnancy or abortion.

5. In those cases where an abortion is the appropriate therapy, LSUHSC-S house officers, staff physicians, and supporting staff who object to abortion on moral, ethical, or religious grounds are not compelled to perform the procedure.

6. All staff shall abide by LA Statute 40:1299.34. “No person employed by the state of Louisiana, by contract or otherwise, or any subdivision or agency thereof, and no person employed in any public or private social service agency, by contract or otherwise, including workers therein, which is a recipient of governmental assistance, shall require or recommend that any woman have an abortion. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, this section shall not apply to a doctor of medicine, currently licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners pursuant to R.S. 37:1261 er seq., who is acting to save or preserve the life of the pregnant woman.”

7. The Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy must be completed by the physician performing the abortion. It is the physician’s responsibility to see that this report is forwarded to the State Office of Vital Records within fifteen (15) days of the performance of an abortion.
Vital Records Registry
Box 60630
New Orleans, Louisiana  70160

Reference: LA Revised Statutes LA 40: 1299.34.5
           LA 40: 1299.35.7
           LA 40: 1299.34

                                 __________________________
                                 Administrator
                                 __________________________
                                 4/17/13
                                 Date

Approved by Clinical Board: 9/19/00, 1/20/04, 2/20/07, 3/16/10, 4/16/13
Written: 1/83
Revised: 10/89, 3/95, 11/97, 11/03, 12/06, 2/10
Reviewed: 8/00, 11/03, 12/06, 2/10, 3/13