

November 1, 2024

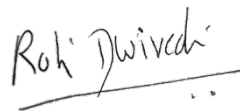
On behalf of the 3,100 physician and medical student members of the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP), I am writing to express support for family physicians seeking credentialing to provide obstetric care. Family physicians are trained to provide comprehensive care across the lifespan. Family physicians who include obstetric care in their practice contribute to the diversity and accessibility of maternity care services in Minnesota. Their ability to provide continuity of care throughout the entire spectrum of a patient's reproductive health journey is invaluable in promoting positive health outcomes for both birthing people and newborns.

A joint statement¹ from the American Academy of Family physicians (AAFP) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) affirms that training standards should enable any physician who undergoes training in a cognitive or surgical skill to qualify for privileges in that specific area of practice. Provisional privileges for primary care, obstetric care and cesarean delivery should be extended irrespective of specialty, provided that training criteria and experience are documented. Every physician should undergo a proctorship period to exhibit their proficiency and current competence. These principles ought to be universally applicable across all health care systems.

The collaborative efforts of AAFP and ACOG underscore the importance of a team-based approach to patient care, recognizing the unique skills and expertise that family physicians bring to the field of obstetrics. The MAFP is committed to fostering collaboration and supporting our members in delivering high-quality, patient-centered care. We encourage all systems to review and revise credentialing policies to facilitate the inclusion of family physicians in the provision of obstetrics care, in accordance with the principles outlined in the AAFP-ACOG joint statement.

Thank you for our shared commitment to the health of Minnesotans. If you have any questions or if further discussion is needed, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Roli Dwivedi, MD, FAAFP
MAFP President

¹ <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/statements-of-policy/2018/aafp-acog-joint-statement-on-cooperative-practice-and-hospital-privileges>