Respectful, Equitable, and Supportive Care — Every Unit/Provider/Team Member

Respectful Care Element	Key Points
Engage in open, transparent, and empathetic communication with the pregnant and postpartum person and their identified support person(s) to understand diagnosis, options, and treatment plans	Support persons may include: Nonfamilial supports, such as doulas and home visitors, who should be welcomed with the pregnant or postpartum person's permission.
Integrate pregnant and postpartum persons as part of the multidisciplinary care team to establish trust and ensure informed, shared decisionmaking that incorporates the pregnant and postpartum person's values and goals	 Inclusion should involve: Establishment of trust. Informed, bidirectional shared decision-making. Recognizing patient values and goals as the primary driver of the decision-making process.
Respect the pregnant and postpartum person's right of refusal in accordance with their values and goals	• Every person has the right to refuse unwanted medical treatment including drug and alcohol testing and screening. Every person is autonomous and deserves the respect to choose what will be done to their own body, and it applies even when refusing treatment means that the person might die or be gravely injured or in distress.

These materials were developed with support from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a cooperative agreement with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists under grant number UC4MC28042, Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health. The contents do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.

© 2021 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Permission is hereby granted for duplication and distribution of this document, in its entirety and without modification, for solely non-commercial activities that are for educational, quality improvement, and patient safety purposes. All other uses requite written permission from ACOG.