

This is a certificate of review in the case of Ayana Byers.

I was called by the Emergency Department of Penrose Hospital early morning of 11/06/2012 to care for Ms. Byers. I was the physician on call for unassigned patients. She presented to the ED with complaints of heavy bleeding following an abortion that had been done the previous weekend at Planned Parenthood. Their patients are advised that there is no follow-up care for complications available at Planned Parenthood and if any complications arise, they are to go to the emergency room. There also are no provisions for a follow-up appointment for the surgical procedure.

Ms. Byers was septic with a high fever and elevated white count. She required an immediate high-risk surgery to remove the remaining tissue that had been left during the previous procedure done at Planned Parenthood. Because of the continued pain and heavy bleeding, I was concerned that the patient might have had an ectopic pregnancy. I called Planned Parenthood the following day to inquire about pathology results to only learn that no pathology is done on abortion patients. The doctor performing the abortion "looks" at the tissue and makes a diagnosis.

These are my concerns:

No practicing physician can maintain privileges to practice and perform surgery if they do not provide specific coverage for their patients in case of a complication. It is considered "abandonment" of your patient. It is not acceptable to refer your patients to the Emergency Department and assume the on-call doctor will take care of any complications and assume all the risk associated with the complications.

It is medically inappropriate for a physician to remove products of conception and not confirm the diagnosis with pathology. I know of no physician or hospital that would allow the removal of a specimen of this nature and assume what the diagnosis was by just "looking" at it.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

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Comprehensive Women's Care/Institute for Sustained Health
