

Canadian Association of Radiologists

Position Statement on Access to Reproductive Care

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The Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) recognizes that abortion is a medical procedure that can be essential to reproductive health. The World Health Organization has affirmed that reproductive rights are human rights and are imperative to the autonomy of people who are able to get pregnant. Furthermore, the Canada Health Act has deemed that all provinces have a duty to provide comprehensive, universal, and accessible reproductive care.

The continuum of reproductive healthcare often involves medical imaging, and the CAR strongly supports safe and timely access to medical imaging for all Canadians. Radiologists and other medical imaging professionals are responsible for providing evidence-based care for all clinical circumstances based on consultation with their patients and what each patient determines to be within their best interests.

The CAR stands united with our colleagues from other countries¹ and other medical specialties²⁻⁴ in defending the sanctity of the patient-provider relationship, emphasizing that health decisions must be made by patients and their healthcare providers. The role of the government should be to facilitate universal, equitable access to healthcare services. There is work to be done across the country to improve timely access to healthcare services for all.

References

1. American College of Radiology. *Resolution No. 11. ACR Opposes Interference in the Physician-Patient Relationship*. Accessed July 13, 2023. <https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Annual-Meeting/Individual-Resolutions/Res-11--PhysicianPatient-Relationship.pdf>
2. Norman WV, Wilson RD, Francoeur D. The SOGC Supports High-Quality, Accessible Abortion Care. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can*. 2022;44(9):945-947. doi:10.1016/j.jogc.2022.08.001
3. Commentary: Abortion is health care. Full stop. Canadian Medical Association. Accessed July 12, 2023. <https://www.cma.ca/news/commentary-abortion-health-care-full-stop>
4. Statement Regarding Abortion | The College of Family Physicians of Canada. Accessed July 12, 2023. <https://www.cfpc.ca/en/statement-regarding-abortion>

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