



AUGUST 2021

President's Message

Advocacy for the COVID vaccine is necessary to protect our patients, their families, and our families. Pregnant women are highly vulnerable to this delta variant, and we need to do all we can to protect them as women's health providers.

Educating our patients about available data and the safety profile of the vaccinations is a start. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine, the American Academy of Physician Associates, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention released strong statements regarding our support for immunizations in pregnancy. APAOG also vocalized our support for COVID

vaccination and we will continue to advocate for the health and safety of all women. Data from the v-safe pregnancy registry, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), and Vaccine Safety Datalink shows no increased risk of miscarriage among women who received the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine before 20 weeks of pregnancy. Additional data did not find any safety concerns for pregnant women vaccinated late in pregnancy or their babies (CDC, 2021). We have seen an increased risk of severe illness due to this highly contagious delta variant, and the vaccine is the best available protection for them. One of the senior physician leaders at my local hospital spoke of his heartbreaking experience when hearing pregnant women say "I wish I would have been vaccinated" right before intubation. We can help them and start to tame this pandemic.



In other APAOG news, we continue to grow our membership offerings with monthly webinars, social media presence, future podcast plans, and more. We appreciate your support and look forward to expanding our reach as women's health advocates.

Melissa Rodriguez, DMSc, PA-C

[New CDC Data: COVID-19 Vaccination Safe for Pregnant People](#)

Your Feedback is Needed

The [Women's Preventive Services Initiative \(WPSI\)](#) has opened the public comment period for the following draft recommendations: Counseling for Sexually Transmitted Infections, Well-Woman Preventive Visits, and Breastfeeding Services and Supplies. Public comment is an opportunity for broad public input that increases the transparency and quality of our program. The comment period for draft recommendations is **August 20–**

[Comment Today](#)

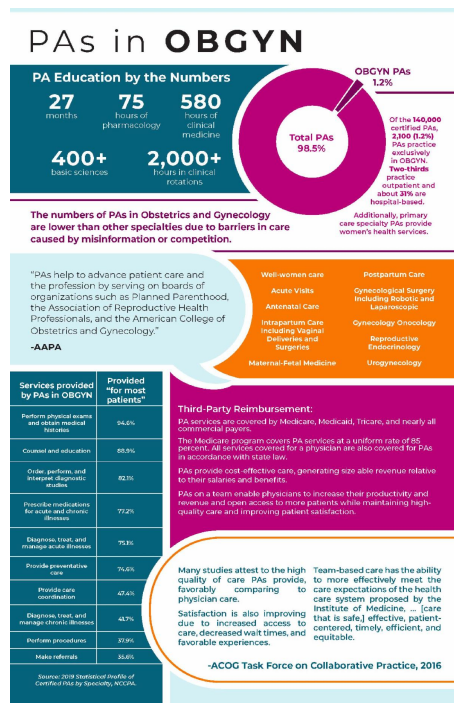
After this public comment opportunity, the Multidisciplinary Steering Committee will review the public comments submitted. The final draft recommendations will be submitted to the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for review and inclusion under the Health Resources and Services Administration-supported [Women's Preventive Services Guidelines](#).



NEW!

INFOGRAPHIC

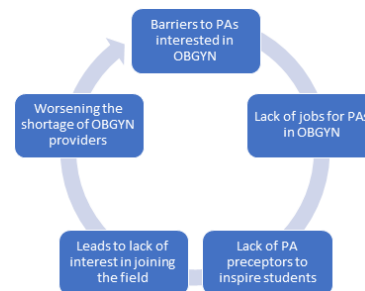
APAOG proudly provides this infographic as a conversation starter with healthcare leadership. We want to showcase our education and abilities in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology. We encourage you to make connections and share our stories. Our grassroots effort is what will make the difference in numbers.



PRECEPTORSHIP

NCCPA 2020 data show that only 1.2% of PAs practice in OBGYN. Without available PAs to precept our students during their Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE), they are less likely to enter the field due to a lack of exposure, example, and opportunity. PA students show their value in all settings which is crucial in breaking down barriers for PAs wanting to enter the specialty. As a bonus, by reaching out to administrators and advocating for PAs and PA student's preceptorship opportunities, we can enlighten them on the benefits of employing PAs.

APAOG has been working on increasing the number of, and access to, preceptors working in OBGYN. Please [visit our website](#) in order to find resources and stay tuned for more.



Education Committee

Are you passionate about learning, working in women's health, PAs and more? Consider joining the APAOG Education Committee. Elyse Watkins, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA, NCMP joined APAOG as the new Education Committee Chair this summer. If you are interested in getting involved with this committee, please [email our office!](#)

Conference Recordings

APAOG's 2021 Virtual Conference session recordings are now available to all. Members only pay \$95 and student members pay only \$25. The on-demand recordings are approved for CME credit through the AAPA Review Panel. [Register now to access the recordings.](#)

On-Demand Webinars

APAOG is proud to offer members NO COST on-demand CME webinars that can be accessed at your convenience! The 2021 webinar series focuses on topics pertinent to PA's practicing in OB/GYN.

Pelvic Floor and Incontinence - Recognition and Importance in Daily Life

Heather Isola, MPAS, PA-C

Preconception Care: A Provider's Approach to Improve Health Outcomes

Heather Adams, MPAS, PA-C

Additional Webinars - No CME

APAOG is now offering additional educational webinars for members to access at their convenience starting this month. These webinars are not eligible for CME, but still focus on pertinent topics related to women's health.

Uterine Fibroids: Disease State, Etiology, Pathophysiology, Burden of Illness

Presented by Heather Hackbarth, PA-C

[Access All Webinars](#)

Resources

Members-Only Benefits

APAOG members can take advantage of the following benefits (and more!):

- [PA Guide to OBGYN](#)
- [Onboarding Document](#)
- [Discussion Forum](#)
- [Free On-Demand and Archived Webinars](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Monthly e-News](#)

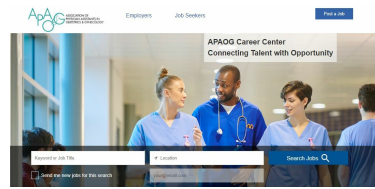
Women's Health Resource Center

Have you visited APAOG's [Women's Health Resource Center](#) on our website? This page highlights the companies and organizations that have taken advantage of our [Partnership Opportunity](#) for 2021. This creation stemmed from wanting to provide our members with resources and information that may be useful as you continue to treat patients and support women. Please reach out to us with any questions and feel free to share this opportunity with those around you who may find this to be a good fit.



Career Center

APAOG's career center may be the place for you to start your search for a new career, build your resume or post any current opening(s). The easy-to-use website has a variety of different options depending on what you are looking for. Click the button below to begin using the resources available to help both employers and job seekers.



[Start Your Search](#)

Educational Affiliate Membership

THIS OFFER HAS BEEN EXTENDED!

Now available year round - join today for only \$150 (\$245 value!) by clicking below.

ACOG needs your help to provide a strong voice for the specialty. Join today in order to add your voice and reap your benefits.



ACOG

The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

**Only available for Fellow, Associate and Affiliate APAOG members.*

[ACOG's Membership Discount](#)

APAOG Partner Highlight

It's You Babe, LLC, is a northern Michigan based manufacturer of all It's You Babe® medical grade prenatal and menopausal support belly bands, back braces and pelvic floor supports. [Click here to visit the website.](#)

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Eligible for FSA,
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[Career Center](#)



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