A New Approach to Delivering Important Publications From the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Integrating rapidly changing technology into our daily lives can be an intimidating task, and it runs across a spectrum from personal to professional, including social media, productivity tools such as digital calendars, and electronic medical records. Some of us approach these technologic changes gradually, whereas others are early and eager adopters.

The leadership of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (the College) has focused much attention recently on how to deliver and present important content to our members and readers. In this month’s issue, we are changing the method of delivering College-developed materials in Obstetrics & Gynecology.

The various Divisions, Departments, and Committees at the College perform a phenomenal amount of work, including the development, review, and updating of numerous documents related to clinical practice, ethics, patient safety, advocacy, and other entities. To provide the evidence base for these documents, many of them have become quite long. As a result, finding the specific recommendations can be difficult. Finally, owing to page limitations in the print journal, it has become difficult to deliver this content in a timely manner.

In this inaugural edition of a new approach and for the foreseeable future, the delivery of College content will occur as follows. In each issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology, the list of newly published, revised, reaffirmed, or withdrawn publications will be provided in the College’s section of the journal (this is unchanged). For new or revised Practice Bulletins, Committee Opinions, Technology Assessments, and Obstetric Care Consensus documents, a 1–2-page summary will be provided in print; the format of this “summary” will vary depending on the document. For example, a Committee Opinion Summary will include the abstract and recommendations, whereas the Practice Bulletin Summary will include the summary recommendations and list of clinical questions addressed in the Bulletin. The full-text document will be available only digitally on the journal web site (www.greenjournal.org), on the Green Journal iPad app, and on the College web site (www.acog.org). Both the summaries and the full-text, online-only documents will be listed in the journal’s table of contents.

The full-text, online-only document, be it a Committee Opinion, Practice Bulletin, or others, will be formatted just as they were previously in print. They will continue to provide the evidence base for recommendations and a broader discussion of the clinical problem addressed in the document. When citing College publications, we encourage you to...
reference the full-text, online-only version (a suggested citation will be published on each Summary and in the full-text version).

The condensed print version and full-text online version are new. Some readers may claim that this approach is long overdue; others may find it a bit unsettling that the full-text documents are no longer in print. But it is time. The important point is that the information is available; the only change is how it is delivered, not what is delivered. What we are delivering now can be disseminated to our members more quickly and efficiently.

In representing the College, we are incredibly grateful for all the work that the dedicated members of all the Committees, the College staff, the journal staff, and the College leadership accomplish to make our organization the source of current and accurate materials and guidance to result in safe and effective care for the women of this nation and beyond. We welcome and look forward to receiving your feedback on this change, which you may direct to PubsFeedback@acog.org. Our goal is to deliver high-quality, timely, and accessible information in a manner that works for our members and other readers.

What’s in This Month’s Issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology?
Sign up for the eTOC and find out.

The journal’s electronic table of contents (eTOC) can be delivered to you each month by e-mail. To sign up, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.greenjournal.org
2. Click on the gear box in the top right corner and select “eTOC”
3. Enter your e-mail address in the box that pops up
4. Click “Continue”
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