



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

December 16, 2021

The Honorable Micky Tripathi, PhD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW, Floor 7
Washington, DC 20201

RE: US Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI): Pregnancy Intention Screening

Dear National Coordinator Tripathi,

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing more than 62,000 obstetrician-gynecologists and partners in women's health, provides critical decision support guidance and resources for women's health care. ACOG appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the US Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) addition of pregnancy intention screening.

The addition of the USCDI element for pregnancy intention screening has the potential to improve maternal and fetal outcomes by starting the discussion for prepregnancy counseling. ACOG strongly believes that any patient encounter with a non-pregnant individual provides the opportunity to discuss the importance of wellness prior to becoming pregnant, and our clinical guidance recommends that counseling can begin by asking about pregnancy intention.¹ Knowing pregnancy intention allows the physician and patient to discuss maintaining a healthy lifestyle, address modifiable risk factors, review immunizations, and assess the management of preexisting medical conditions.² Ultimately, the goal of pregnancy intention screening is to reduce the risk of adverse health effects for the woman, fetus, and neonate by working with the patient to optimize their health and reduce the chances of pregnancy-related complications. The inclusion of the pregnancy intention screening will improve the ability for the information to be captured and shared in the electronic health record.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving interoperable technologies. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Erin Lambie Alston, ACOG's Manager, Health Policy, at elambie@acog.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa Satterfield, MS, MPH
Senior Director, Health Economics & Practice Management

¹Prepregnancy counseling. ACOG Committee Opinion No. 762. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2019;133:e78–89.

² Well-woman visit. ACOG Committee Opinion No. 755. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2018;132:e181–86.