

The National Health Law Program is pleased to announce the release of its new report, [*Health Care Refusals: Undermining Quality Care for Women*](#)

NHeLP's Standards of Care Project is a multi-year initiative to reshape the public debate about refusal clauses (also known as conscience clauses) that recognize the "rights" of health care professionals to refuse to provide information and care that would normally be required in evidence-based medical practice. These legal exemptions also allow institutions such as hospitals, clinics, and insurers to prohibit willing providers from delivering care that meets medical standards.

The report offers a new framework for evaluating refusal clauses and denials of care, hospital mergers, and other transactions when they conflict with accepted and expected medical care. Instead of debating rights, *Health Care Refusals* looks to evidence-based, established medical practice guidelines and evaluates the health consequences of refusals by asking a simple question: Is this good medical care? The findings demonstrate that the answer is a resounding

No! These policies can and *do* compromise women's health.

As part of our longstanding commitment to quality care for low income women, NHeLP recognizes that health care refusals have an exponentially greater impact on low-income women who are likely to have fewer choices of providers, to be enrolled in managed care, and to be unable to travel or afford out-of-plan services.

To request hard copies of the report, for technical assistance, or to request a presentation, please contact [Susan Berke Fogel](#) , (310) 204-6010.

Resources

Full report: [*Health Care Refusals: Undermining Quality Care for Women*](#) (2010)

Executive Summary: [*Health Care Refusals: Undermining Quality Care for Women*](#) (2010)

Issue Brief: [*Health Care Refusals and Contraception: Undermining Quality Care*](#) (Mar '12)

Paper: [*The Limits and Potential of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) in Promoting Women's Health*](#) , Susan Berke Fogel and Tracy A. Weitz (2012)

Press release: [*Women at Risk: New Study Finds Health Care Refusals Undermine Medical Standards of Care on Wide Range of Services*](#) (2010)

LA Times Blog: [*"More women are refused healthcare due to hospital ideology, report says."*](#)
May 27, 2010.

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Research Professor, Center for Human Growth and Development
University of Michigan

Panna Lossy, M.D.

Director of Women's Health
Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program, a UCSF Affiliate

Sara Rosenbaum, J.D.

Hirsh Professor and Chair
Department of Health Policy
The George Washington University Medical Center
School of Public Health and Health Services

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Assistant Professor of Medicine
Center for Research on Health Care
University of Pittsburgh

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Director
Center for Study of Bioethics
Medical College of Wisconsin
Gardner, Carton & Douglas

R. William Soller, Ph.D.

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UCSF School of Pharmacy

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Professor, Department of Psychiatry
Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Rush Medical College of Rush University, Chicago, Illinois

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Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Distinguished Professor of Public Health Sciences & Obstetrics and Gynecology
Penn State College of Medicine
Director, Central PA Center for Excellence for Research on Pregnancy Outcomes

Nancy F. Woods, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.

Dean, School of Nursing
Professor, Family and Child Nursing
University of Washington

Sophia Yen, M.D., M.P.H.

Clinical Instructor
Adolescent Medicine Clinic
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital
Stanford University Medical Center

*Affiliations for identification purposes only.