

Case for Support: Expanding Access to Obstetric and Gynecologic Care

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**Expanding Access to Obstetric and Gynecologic Care
Resources in Valley's Earl A. Wheaton, Jr., M.D. Family Care Center**

Valley Health System's Earl A. Wheaton, Jr., M.D. Family Care Center (formerly Valley's Community Clinic), provides adult medical services, children's services, and women's services to meet the healthcare needs of patients in our community, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured. With the clinic's move to a new, larger, renovated space on the Ridgewood campus, the number of patient visits to the clinic has increased dramatically and is expected to continue to grow. Obstetrics volume is projected to increase by 30% in 2025, and gynecologic volume is projected to increase by 20% in 2025. The opening of additional subspecialty clinics, such as high-risk obstetrics, family planning, and gynecologic surgery, will continue to expand the service's volume.

The Obstetrics and Gynecology residency program seeks funding to support the purchase of medications and medical devices for uninsured or underinsured women in Bergen, Passaic, and Rockland Counties who use the center's services.

- Intrauterine Devices (Skyla, Mirena, Kyleena and Paragard)
- OCPs (multiple types)
- Nexplanon (contraceptive implant)
- Birth Control (Other)
- Antibiotics/antifungals/Antivirals
- Other Hormone Therapy
- Manual Vacuum Aspirator
- Funds for price fluctuations/supply issues

Background: The Earl A. Wheaton, Jr., M.D. Family Care Center provides outpatient primary, prenatal, pediatric, and specialty care for patients of all ages, from infants to seniors. While most of the Family Care Center's patients are covered by insurance (commercial, Medicaid, Medicare), 22% participate in Valley's charity care program. Uninsured and underinsured patients often forego needed medications and devices due to cost, which can lead to unplanned pregnancies, untreated infections, and decreased ability to function properly due to menopausal symptoms or painful and heavy periods.

Patients seen in the Obstetrics and Gynecology service of the Family Care Center who are prescribed medication or medical devices that they are unable to afford will be given their prescription through the clinic program. Giving our patients access to medications and devices will ultimately decrease the volume of emergency department visits for pain or bleeding; decrease the need for surgical intervention due to untreated gynecologic problems, miscarriage or termination of pregnancy; and will enable patients to function more fully and enable them to work and eventually obtain their own health insurance.