

# Protect unconscious patients from unwanted pelvic exams!

*“Our oath as medical students and physicians is to do no harm to the patient. Performing unauthorized pelvic exams on anesthetized patients for the sole purpose of medical student education violates this principle and may cause unacceptable psychological harm to patients. No learning opportunity is worth sacrificing a patient’s well being.”*

*- Proponent testimony from a medical student on Ohio legislation requiring informed consent for educational pelvic exams*

- 61% of medical students who performed a pelvic exam on an anesthetized patient reported doing so without the patient's explicit consent. A study at the University of Oklahoma found that nearly 75% of women had not consented to a gyno exam by students.
- 72% of women expect to be asked for permission before such a procedure, and 62% say they would consent if they were asked.
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Medical Association (AMA) Code of Medical Ethics, & the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) support informed consent practices for unconscious practice exams.

## About RAINN

Over the last 30 years, RAINN has served over 3 million survivors through the National Sexual Assault Hotline.

## Require permission before invasive educational exams on patients under anesthesia!

The physician-patient relationship is built on a foundation of trust & this law would ensure that starts during medical training.

- MN law allows medical professionals and residents to perform pelvic & rectal exams on unconscious patients during **unrelated operations without the patient's knowledge**.
- This practice violates the patient's trust, puts medical professionals in awkward situations, & can traumatize survivors of sexual violence, **causing them to avoid future medical care**.
- Requiring explicit informed consent prior to these exams **gives the support of the law to physicians and students** building a culture of communication & consent.
- This bolsters faith in physician training by **requiring informed consent before these practice procedures**.
- At least 25 states have passed laws banning unauthorized pelvic exams to ensure transparency & permission is prioritized for all patients, including: Iowa, Illinois, Arkansas, Maryland, Florida, Virginia, Idaho, & Missouri.

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