

Dear Dr. Fischbein,

I am an ob/gyn physician, and I strongly believe in VBAC. I view with alarm the increasing trend away from allowing patients to VBAC.

I recently had a colleague who lost a case in which a woman who was VBAC-ing ruptured her uterus and lost her baby. The doctor was sued because she was at another hospital attending to another patient. A staff doctor attended to the patient who was VBAC-ing, was able to get her to the OR and the baby out in under 7 minutes, but the baby died anyway. No better care could have been provided to this woman. My colleague settled for millions, and the hospital now requires doctors who have patients who are VBAC-ing to be in-house. This is impossible for most ob/gyns, who practice at several hospitals.

The malpractice industry is now determining how care is provided in this country.

Frivolous lawsuits that settle rather than going to court drive up the costs of insurance.

Bad outcomes are rare, but they are costly on an economic and emotional level.

This is a much more complicated issue than what is presented here. Yes, there are doctors who like to work less and get paid more. But there are also many who simply want what is best for their patients and are unable to provide it due to systemic constraints. I, frankly, am tired of the adversarial nature of medicine in this day and age.

Sincerely,

Dr. Russo

Dear Dr. Russo, You are 100% correct in both your point about the insurance industry controlling and essentially practicing medicine without a license. And, yes, the problems are much more widespread and complex than what is presented here. Because of all the micromanaging and restraints put on doctors in today's world many cannot afford to fight back on behalf of their patients and even more have just given in to the system and have compromised their values and their oath due to economics and expediency. It is a very sad thing to watch our profession whither away. The answers are just as complex but not impossible. Making noise and awakening the public is the beginning. Please keep writing letters and speaking out even though it may seem we are shouting at a brick wall. I am speaking on March 27th in Fort Worth, Texas at The Controversies in Childbirth Conference in support of a lower c/section rate and VBAC. A few years ago there never would have even been such a conference. For those of us who love our profession and respect the right of self determination for our patients there can be no weariness. Please consider joining the Birth Action Coalition at www.birthactioncoalition.com or any local group that supports the right of informed consent and refusal.

Warmest regards, Dr. Fischbein