

Rachel A. Maassen, MD, MBA



Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology - General Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Medical Director for Clinical Risk Management for Carver College of Medicine, the University of Iowa Physicians Group, and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Director, Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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If you had not chosen medicine as a career, what field might you have gone into?

I was a psychology major in college and considered becoming a clinical psychologist.

Why did you choose to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology?

I enjoy the variety of clinical and surgical skills as well as taking care of women across their lifespan.

What have you enjoyed most about your clinical experiences? Why?

I have enjoyed the continuity of care. I have been taking care of many of my patients for years, caring for them through all of life's ups and downs.

Why did you choose to work in an academic setting?

I enjoy teaching and mentoring the next generation of providers.

What is the best part of working in academics?

I am challenged to continue to learn and

grow my clinical and surgical skills. Teaching keeps me on my toes!

If you could give one piece of advice to physicians in your field, what would it be?

Don't become complacent in your career, continue to seek new opportunities.

How do you balance work life and home life in your busy career?

Grace; both giving and receiving it continuously.

If you could make one change in the way medicine is practiced in your field, what would it be? Why?

I would limit electronic communication because it often leads to poor communication. See below for more.

If you could change one thing about the world we live in, what would it be?

I would have an effective COVID vaccine freely available to all.

Who is the person in your life you would most like to thank?

My parents. My dad taught me to listen without judgement and my mom to give unconditionally. I strive to emulate them every day.

Which attribute do you feel is most important for successful Division leadership?

The ability to think outside the box finding creative win-win solutions.

Looking forward, which aspects of Risk Management do you feel are most important to address in the field of obstetrics and gynecology?

Poor communication is the number one issue I deal with in risk management across the organization. Every specialty needs to focus on improved communication with their patients as well as with other healthcare professionals. In obstetrics, we need to do a better job communicating the inherent risks of pregnancy as well as the unique risks the patient's health may add, especially obesity. We then need to discuss the limitations we have as providers to deliver the perfect experience and the perfect outcome. We need to better communicate the risks and benefits of any treatment option ensuring comprehension not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because the medical legal environment demands this.

We need to tear down any communication barriers within our care team. To truly provide high quality safe care we need open, honest, face to face communication between providers and the nursing team. Our providers and nursing staff are pulled in so many different directions we lose sight of our shared goal of providing excellent patient care. With so many different "quick" communication tools at our fingertips we often communicate inadequately. Voalte/text messages and Epic messages are eroding provider-nurse relationships leading to a lack of trust which in turn leads to a lack of communication. We need to re-build the care team.