



ADOPTION-SENSITIVE CLINICAL CARE



Welcome to your March update from ASCC!

This month, we're focusing on ethical care and the vital role of adoption competency in the clinical setting. With new resources, including a 1-hour Curriculum Kit and updated supplemental trainings, we're here to help you replace common myths with evidence-based facts.

Dive in to learn how a "blank slate" mindset can lead to more impactful, respectful patient outcomes.

Understanding Infant Adoption Training Highlight: The Essential Role of Values Clarification

Every decision in healthcare or social work is filtered through a lens of values. In **Module 1** of the *Understanding Infant Adoption* training, participants examine the essential practice of **Values Identification and Acknowledgement**.

Because values are influenced by lived experience, they are rarely static. Without intentional awareness, these beliefs can unintentionally interfere with patient autonomy. By seeking a deeper understanding of birth parents and the adoption process, professionals can challenge personal assumptions by recognizing where internal "blueprints" misalign with a patient's reality. This practice helps dispel common myths with evidence-based facts and safeguards objectivity to ensure personal backgrounds do not overshadow patient needs.

Values clarification is an ongoing developmental process. By acknowledging where personal beliefs end and professional duties begin, clinicians ensure that the patient's voice remains the most important one in the room.

Build Your Skills in Adoption-Sensitive Care

Free CMEs, IPCE, and Social Work CEs are available for all training lengths:

1.5-hour

2.5-hour

4.5-hour

6.5-hour



[Get the Resource](#)

[Featured Resource: Ethical Considerations for Healthcare Professionals](#)

In busy clinical settings, the transition from providing information to influencing a decision can be subtle. This resource centers unbiased care by exploring the pillars of ethical care and decision-making. It also defines the "red lines" of coercion and explores informed consent to ensure patients remain effective advocates for their own futures.



[Earn Free CME/CE](#)

[Free Supplemental Training: Adoption Then and Now](#)

Modern adoption practice has evolved significantly, yet a lack of specialized education remains a barrier in clinical settings. This free training closes the practice gap by examining the historical context of adoption in the United States, emphasizing the power of language, and exploring the lifelong emotional complexities experienced by the adoption triad.



[Access the Kit](#)

[Trainer's Resource: The 1-Hour Curriculum Kit](#)

Developing a curriculum from scratch is a significant time commitment. To support internal development, a one-hour package is available for presentations such as Resident Didactics or Grand Rounds. This kit includes an engaging slide deck with references, a trainer's guide, and top participant handouts for staff to bring back to their clinical units.

Provider Perspective: Keeping a Blank Slate



Impactful care balances clinical expertise with an openness to each patient's unique journey. By approaching encounters with a "blank slate" mindset and leading with curiosity, clinicians empower patients to share their actual needs. This focus ensures that recommendations truly align with that individual's world, honoring the dignity of every patient.

Pediatrician and hospital newborn nursery director DeeAnne Jackson highlights the value of this approach:

“People’s lives look very differently... than I may expect from walking in the room. Seeing the person in front of me, I may have a certain expectation of how they live, of what they think, of what their values are, and I am often very wrong with that... often I probably have no idea what the person’s life is truly like that I’m talking to.”

[Hear More](#)

Birth Parent Perspective: The Power of Openness

Today’s shift toward open adoption replaces historical silence with the potential for connection. Birth mother Renee Alexander reflects on the value of having a choice compared to the “what ifs” of the past:

“

I used to think about, well, what does she look like? And how is she doing in school? And would I recognize her? And just what kind of household is she growing up in? I would have loved to have answers to questions like that. But I didn't. These are now options that birth parents have—to know more about their child’s experience. I’m sure that creates another set of complexities... but at least it’s there as an option.

~ Renee Alexander, *Birth Mom*

”

Why Adoption Competency Matters

Healthcare professional and adoptive mother Christina Latterell-Loganimoce recently shared a moving reflection on her family’s journey.

While her hospital adoption experience was defined by a meaningful connection with her child’s birth mother, it happened in a healthcare facility with no adoption protocols, no training, and no roadmap.



In clinical settings, established protocols are a vital support for both patients and providers. Without standardized systems in place, well-intentioned staff may face challenges in navigating the complexities of adoption, which can lead to avoidable stress for everyone involved. Moving away from an ad hoc approach toward clear, evidence-based guidelines helps protect birth parents, adoptive families, and clinicians alike.

[Read the Post on LinkedIn](#)

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