Before You Leave the Hospital

When will I go home?

Most times after an uncomplicated vaginal delivery, moms are able to go home after an overnight stay. If you deliver late at night or in the wee hours of the morning, you may need to stay another night.

After a Cesarean birth, you will stay 2 to 3 days. For example, if your surgery is Monday morning, you may be ready to go home Wednesday evening.

Please plan for your ride home before coming to the hospital.

Prescriptions

If your health care provider prescribes medicines for you to take at home, you can either take the prescriptions to your local pharmacy or have them filled at University of Washington Medical Center pharmacy. The medical center accepts many prescription plans.

If a co-pay is required, you can pay with cash, check, VISA, or MasterCard. There are ATMs on the 1st and 3rd floors of the medical center.
Washington State Birth Filing Form

Before you go home, fill out the “Washington State Birth Filing” form, which is in the pocket in this booklet. This is where you put information that the hospital sends to the State of Washington Center for Health Statistics so that a birth certificate can be made for your baby.

Fill out and turn in this form to your nurse before you leave the hospital. If you do not complete the whole form (for example, if you leave off the baby’s name), you will have to pay for updates and corrections.

Birth Certificates

Your baby’s official birth certificate can be obtained from the Vital Statistics office in person, by phone, by mail, or over the Internet (www.metrokc.gov/health). Call 206-296-4769 for more information on costs, methods of payment, and office hours. Orders made in person at the Vital Statistics office, King County Administration Building, 500 Fourth Ave., Room 214, Seattle, WA 98104, will be processed right away. All other requests take about 1 to 2 weeks. UWMC will send you a copy of the “Order Form for a Certified Copy of a Birth Certificate” to help you.

When you receive your baby’s birth certificate, put it in a safe place. It is an important legal document.

Birth Verification Letter

You will be given a Birth Verification Letter as temporary proof of your baby’s birth. It can be used in place of a birth certificate for up to 60 days after the birth. For example, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) accepts an original Birth Verification Letter as proof of birth. If you get DSHS assistance, you need to let them know about your baby’s birth.

You can choose to have this letter sent to your home, or you can get it before you leave the hospital. There is a place on the Washington State Birth Filing form, described above, to indicate how you want to receive it.

If you want to get a Birth Verification Letter before you leave the hospital, you or a family member can take your completed Washington State Birth Filing form to the Medical Records
Birth Verification Letters are available from the time of your baby’s birth until 2 months of age. University of Washington Medical Center can give only one Birth Verification Letter to each family for their baby’s birth and cannot replace a lost letter.

Social Security Number

You will need to get a Social Security number for your baby. The easiest way to request one is to check the box that says, “Social Security Requested for Child” on the Washington State Birth Filing form you receive in the hospital. It will take 6 to 8 weeks for you to receive your baby’s Social Security number.

If you need a Social Security number sooner, you can go to any Social Security office. There is a list of local Social Security offices under “Federal Government” in the front sections of the white pages of many phone books.

When you go to the Social Security office, you will need to bring:

- A certified copy of your baby’s Birth Certificate.
- The Birth Verification Letter.
- Your baby’s hospital identification (ID) band.
- The name card from your baby’s hospital crib.

In addition, the Social Security office will request proof of your baby’s birth from our Medical Records (Patient Data Services) department.

Father’s Acknowledgement Form (Paternity Affidavit)

If you are a single mother and want the name of your baby’s father on the birth certificate, both you and the baby’s father will need to fill out a form called “Paternity Acknowledgement” within 10 days of your baby’s birth. Information booklets about this form are available from your nurse or social worker.

This form must be signed by both you and the baby’s father in front of a Notary. Both parents will need to show the Notary current government-issued photo identification, such as a driver’s license, passport, or current state ID card. To fill out
Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your health care provider if you have questions or concerns.

Medical Records/
Patient Data Services:
206-598-3478

Medical Records/
Automated Information:
206-598-4344

Notary Services:
206-598-3478 or
206-598-4346

...the Paternity Acknowledgement form and make an appointment for free Notary services, call 206-598-3478, or ask your nurse or social worker for help.

If you turn in the form at UWMC’s Patient Data Services within 5 days of your baby’s birth, the hospital will send it, along with the information for the birth certificate, to the Vital Statistics office. If you fill out the form more than 5 days after your baby’s birth, you must take it to the Vital Statistics office and pay a fee.

Newspaper Birth Announcements

To protect your privacy and your baby’s safety, UWMC does not give information about births to newspapers. If you decide to place a birth announcement, it should NEVER include the family’s home address and should be limited to last names only.

Baby Photo and Footprints

Most times, we do not take your baby’s picture as part of your care. If this is something you want, ask your nurse. We do provide you with your baby’s footprints.

Medical Records

UWMC keeps a record of the health care services you and your baby received. You may ask to see your record and request a copy from UWMC Medical Records (Patient Data Services), Room BB306. You can also call 206-598-4344 for recorded instructions, or 206-598-3478 from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or, you may write to:

Patient Data Services/UWMC
Box 356147
1959 N.E. Pacific St.
Seattle, WA 98195

We will not show your medical record to others unless you tell us to, or unless we are legally required to do so.