Who Is Involved in Your Care?

Our goal is to surround you and your family with a safe environment for the birth of your baby. We look forward to providing sensitive, state-of-the-art care during your stay for labor, birth, and early postpartum. Our team is eager to help you welcome your new baby.

We encourage you to have family members with you during your pregnancy visits, your birth, and while you are in the medical center. Congratulations on your upcoming birth, and thank you for choosing UWMC.

Your Care Team During Pregnancy

At your prenatal visits, the front desk staff will help to check you in and schedule your appointments. Here are some of the providers and staff you may meet during your visits:

- **Attending Obstetrician** – Your attending obstetrician supervises your prenatal care during clinic visits. Attending obstetricians are on the medical school faculty.

- **Perinatologist** – Perinatologists are obstetricians who are board-certified with advanced training in high-risk pregnancies. They are highly skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the pregnant woman and fetus, during pregnancy and through childbirth.

- **Perinatal Fellow** – Fellows are obstetricians who are receiving advanced training in high-risk pregnancies. Your doctor may be a perinatal fellow.

- **Resident Obstetrician** – Resident obstetricians are medical doctors receiving training in their obstetric and gynecologic specialty. Your prenatal visits may be with a resident who will follow you throughout your pregnancy. Residents are supervised by attending obstetricians.

- **Medical Student** – Medical students, who are training to become doctors, sometimes accompany the obstetric team during clinic visits, and may help take your history.

- **Certified Nurse Midwife** – Midwives specialize in caring for women with normal pregnancies and births. Our midwives are certified health care professionals.
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) – These practitioners have completed advanced training in physical assessment and intervention. Some clinics have nurse practitioners, who manage healthy pregnancies.

Registered Nurse (RN) – The nurse follows your pregnancy and coordinates your care. As part of the health care team in some clinics, these specialists in pregnancy and birth provide information on pregnancy-related subjects, including high-risk pregnancies.

Medical Assistant – Medical assistants coordinate the flow of patients through the clinic, escort you to the exam room, and assist during tests or procedures.

Social Worker – A social worker may be available to discuss personal or family concerns, issues related to finances, and resources to help you find the services you need.

Registered Dietitian – A registered dietitian can help you plan for and choose healthy foods for you and your baby during pregnancy.

Genetic Counselors – These professionals provide information and answer questions about genetic concerns or environmental exposures, and offer tests for those at risk for chromosomal disorders.

Childbirth Educator – Childbirth educators teach classes on pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, and infant care.

Lactation Consultants – Lactation consultants provide education about breastfeeding.

Ultrasound Technician – An ultrasound technician performs an ultrasound scan of your baby during pregnancy.

WIC Program Staff – For those eligible for the federal Women, Infants and Children Program, this service provides basic education on nutrition and food vouchers for you, your new baby, and any older children.

Laboratory Staff – These technicians draw blood as needed for tests.

Pharmacist – A pharmacist teaches you about your medicines and fills any prescriptions you may need.
Questions?
Your questions are important. If you have questions about yourself, call your obstetric provider during office hours. Clinics are closed 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. and on weekends.
When your provider’s office is closed, call Labor and Delivery: 206-598-4616

Your Care Team for Labor and Birth
When you come to the Maternity and Infant Center to give birth, you will be greeted by the front desk staff. You will be checked by a registered nurse. Your nurse provides care and remains with you during the birth and right after the birth.

Your doctor or midwife is one of a team of health care professionals. You may see the same doctor or midwife you see in clinic. If your doctor or midwife is not available, you will be cared for by one of the partners in their practice.

During your labor and birth, you may also meet some of these health care professionals:

- **Anesthesiologist** – An anesthesiologist is a medical doctor who provides medicine for pain relief during labor and birth, such as epidural anesthesia, or when a Cesarean section birth occurs.
- **Neonatologist** – A neonatologist is a medical doctor who cares for newborns and premature babies.
- **Medical Student or Nursing Student** – Sometimes, a medical or nursing student from the university will ask to be a part of your care team.

Your Care Team for a Cesarean Birth
When a mother or baby needs to have a birth by Cesarean section, more health care professionals are needed. Each team member has a specific role during a Cesarean section birth.

- **Registered Nurse** – A registered nurse provides care and remains with you during the birth and right after the birth.
- **Doctors** – Two doctors will perform the surgery.
- **Anesthesiologist** – The anesthesiologist provides medicine for pain relief, such as epidural, spinal, or general anesthesia during Cesarean birth.
- **Neonatologist, Pediatrician, and Registered Nurse from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit** – These members of your health care team assess the baby’s breathing, heart rate, and general well-being after the birth.