Planning your pregnancy visits

This booklet will help you and your doctor talk about your pregnancy care plan. This includes routine visits, tests and lab work.

Managing your pregnancy care and coverage

Don’t hesitate to ask questions. Addressing them now will allow you to focus on your health and your pregnancy in the coming months.

Questions to ask your physician:

What types of, and how many, ultrasounds will I need, so I can check if they are covered by my insurance?

What specific blood tests will you order, so that I can check for coverage?

TIP: There is a lot of new information given during prenatal visits. So bring a notebook to your appointments.

Questions to ask your insurance:

Are my doctor’s appointments covered completely?

What fees am I responsible for?

Will this treatment go towards my deductible?

How far am I from meeting my deductible?

TIP: When you call your insurance company, have your group and ID numbers ready.

GROUP #

ID #

Questions to ask when scheduling appointments:

Can any of these tests be grouped together in the same day?

How can I use the wait time in between tests?

Is this schedule manageable with my current work schedule?

TIP: Some test will require extra planning, like fasting or meeting with a specialist. When you check out, ask how to plan for your next appointment.

Transportation .......................... $  

Adding up transportation costs for all of your visits can help you budget and plan. If you have a medical card, your insurance may include transportation support. Call your insurance company for more information.

Child care .............................. $  

Clinic visits sometimes run over time. Plan for extra childcare and/or arrange for someone to pick up children from school on days you have appointments.

Food ........................................ $  

At the hospital cafeteria, an average meal costs $10. A snack is about $5. Clinic visits can be long. Pack a lunch and snack from home.

Time off work ................................ hours  

Work with your employer to arrange time off work for clinic visits. The clinic can provide a note before or after visits if you need to show proof of a medical need.

Parking ...................................... $  

The clinic can validate your parking and reduce your parking fee. Street parking is limited around the hospital. So if you plan to park on the street, make sure you leave extra time to look for parking and make the walk to the clinic.

Co-pays ...................................... $  

Call your insurance company and ask what is covered during your pregnancy. Always double check your bills.

University of Chicago Medicine  

Contact information  

(773) 702-6118  

OB/GYN Clinic Staff  

(773) 702-6664  

OB/GYN Billing  

(773) 702-1807  

OB/GYN Social Work Services  

(800) 827-0125  

Toll free

This is a prototype developed for COST, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded study examining cost of care conversations between pregnant women and their providers.
### Your care plan for a healthy pregnancy

#### 1st trimester

First trimester visits focus on your health and any conditions you have that may affect your pregnancy.

- **Week ____**
  - Dr visit
  - Labs
  - Ultrasound
  - NST

#### 2nd trimester

Second trimester visits focus on growth of the fetus and look for changes to your health. Some conditions, like gestational diabetes, can develop during pregnancy. Regular visits identify these early and make sure you get the right care.

- **Week ____**
  - Dr visit
  - Labs
  - Ultrasound
  - NST

#### 3rd trimester

Third trimester visits focus on the health of your baby and monitor your pregnancy for any sudden changes. During this time, a pregnancy can change quickly. So regular visits are important to help monitor your health and to plan for your delivery.

- **Week ____**
  - Dr visit
  - Labs
  - Ultrasound
  - NST

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### Plan extra time for labs + procedures

A **nuchal translucency scan** helps screen for Down’s syndrome. A **dating ultrasound** takes a picture of your fetus to check its age, due date and growth. To get a good picture, drink two glasses of water before the test to fill your bladder. Plan for 15 - 20 minutes.

An **anatomy ultrasound** checks on the size, weight and sex of the fetus. It can also detect some fetal abnormalities. Plan to drink two glasses of water before the test to fill your bladder. Plan for 30 - 45 minutes.

A **Nonstress Test (NST)** checks baby’s movement, heartbeat and contractions without causing any stress to the baby. Plan for 20 - 60 minutes.

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### Genetic testing

Genetic testing is optional and screens for birth defects and genetic disorders. Different tests have different time requirements.

**Diabetes screening** identifies pregnancy-related diabetes, which some women develop. Every woman takes the **Glucose Challenge Screening**, for which you drink a sweet liquid and then have blood drawn. Plan for at least 1 hour.

Women who don’t pass the screening test will also take the **Glucose Tolerance Test**. Plan for 3-4 hours.

**Antenatal tests** are routine tests to monitor the health of you and baby. This can include screening for Group B streptococcus and fetal heart rate monitoring, among other things.