

Gestational Surrogacy

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Gestational Surrogacy?

Gestational surrogacy is a process where one person, who did not provide the egg used in the conception, carries a fetus through pregnancy and gives birth to a baby for another person or couple. The person who carries the fetus is called a “surrogate” or “gestational carrier.” The person or couple who are seeking to parent the baby or babies are called the “intended parent(s).” (NYS, 2021)

What is the hospital process like for the birth of a newborn via surrogate?

URMC fully supports the gestational surrogate in their ability to make independent decisions about their birth preferences throughout the labor and postpartum periods.

Will intended parents be provided with a newborn ID band?

If the appropriate NYS gestational surrogacy forms have been received by the Social Work Office and/or are available at the time of delivery, a newborn ID band will be placed on one Intended Parent. The Intended Parent’s identity will be verified against a photo ID. This ID band will match the newborn’s and be used by staff for safety and identification purposes. If legal documentation is not provided prior to, or at the time of delivery, the Intended Parent will not be provided with a newborn ID band until copies of the court orders are received.

Will intended parents receive their own room? What about when providing human milk for the newborn?

Unfortunately, we can never promise this. Providing the intended parent(s) with a room to stay in will depend on the department census. If there is a room available on the day of delivery, then we will accommodate and allow the intended parent(s) to stay. If our census changes rapidly, we will need to ask the intended parent(s) to leave the room to accommodate other delivering patients. There may be rooms available in the Newborn Nursery, which may be an option for an intended parent to stay in if they are providing human milk to the newborn. If we are unable to accommodate the intended parents with their own room to stay in, the newborn will be cared for in the newborn nursery.

Do intended parents receive meals?

We do not provide intended parents meals during their stay. The hospital has a cafeteria, and many local dining options are within walking distance.

What is the process for obtaining a birth certificate?

Under the New York State law that went into effect 2/15/2021, Strong Memorial Hospital (SMH) will issue the birth certificate for a baby born via surrogate. See back for complete process.

Who should I contact before arriving at the hospital?

You can reach Social Work at **(585) 275-7572**. Please reach out to social work at any time with questions or to assist in coordinating plans during the upcoming delivery admission.

Birth Certificate Process

1. On the initial birth certificate generated by SMH, NYS requires that the birth lists the parent/gestational carrier as Baby's "Mother." For this initial certificate, NYS requires:

A. Birth Parent/gestational carrier:

- First Name/Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth
- Social Security Number (we can enter 999-99-9999 to fulfill this required field)
- Residential address
- Mailing address (we will not mail an original, or copy, of the birth certificate to this address)

B. Baby Name:

- NO First Name
- NO Middle Name
- Last Name of Birth Parent on the initial birth certificate generated by SMH.
- NYS DOH Amendment Unit in Albany will update Baby's name and issue a new birth certificate.

C. Social Security Number *cannot yet be initiated for Baby.*

D. The initial birth certificate generated by SMH will not identify a second parent for this record.

2. SMH Birth Certificate Office **cannot** provide any type of Proof of Birth letter for a baby born via surrogate.

3. Updating Baby's name in eRecord:

- SMH Birth Certificate Office **will not** provide any information to HIM regarding Baby.
- HIM will need to utilize legal documents on file with the hospital to update Baby's name in eRecord, etc.

4. Once we have generated an initial birth certificate at SMH, we will send it to the local Vital Records office with a copy of any legal documentation provided to the Birth Certificate Office, such as a Parentage Order-Surrogacy Agreement, etc.

5. Birth is officially recorded at Vital Records, and the **birth certificate is officially sealed.**

6. Local Vital Records will follow their process and forward the initial birth certificate with required documentation to the NYS DOH Amendment Unit in Albany to issue a new birth certificate per NYS law.

7. Once the Intended Parents receive a new birth certificate, the Intended Parents can apply for a Social Security Number for Baby.

NOTE: New York City has a different process and a separate system for issuing birth certificates.

For additional questions regarding the birth certificate process, please call **(585) 276-6118**.