

Today’s Visit

Date: _____ Provider: _____

My Weight: _____ lbs. My Blood Pressure: _____ / _____

Abdominal Measurement: _____ Estimated Due Date: _____

Questions for My Provider	Answers
1.	
2.	
3.	

My Next Visit:

What to Expect at My Next Visit:

- In addition to the components of every visit, you can expect:
- After delivery, you will need to make a postpartum appointment.
 - Depending on your type of delivery, you may have a physical exam including either a vaginal or incision check.
 - This will be a great time to discuss birth control options, how you’re feeling physically and emotionally, and how your baby is doing.



Resources

For additional pregnancy and childbirth information:

www.wellstar.org/obwellness | www.health4mom.org

See welcome letter from your provider with phone numbers for social services.

GA referrals and social services: 1 (800) 300-9003 (WIC etc.)

Local Women’s Resource Center www.wrcdv.org; 24/7 hotline (404) 688-9436.

If you are feeling you need help with mental health or substance use, call the GA Crisis line at 1 (800) 715-4225. Someone is available 24 hours, 7 days a week to assist.

Postpartum Support International (Georgia Chapter) www.psig.org
or call PSI Helpline 1 (800) 944-4PPD (4773) or text (503) 894-9453.

Safe Kids Georgia: (404) 785-7873 or visit www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-georgia



My Pregnancy
Journey

40 Weeks
NINE MONTHS VISIT

What to Expect at This Visit

Every Visit

- At the beginning of every visit, our team will obtain a urine sample, measure your weight and vital signs, and update your pharmacy, medication list and medical history.
- Your provider will review your medical history and discuss any questions or concerns you have and review your progress together.

This Visit

- Cervical exam, if needed
- Listen to fetal heartbeat
- Abdominal exam to check baby’s position
- Discuss your birthing preferences

Growth & Development

- 40-week size: a small watermelon, about 18-20 inches.
- Baby should be in the head-down position.
- Baby’s immune system is developing to prepare for life outside the womb. Breastfeeding is important to boost your baby’s immune system even more.
- Kick counts - Tracking the baby’s movement while lying down on your side helps you become aware of how your baby is doing. When tracking kick counts, note the time, after the baby has moved ten times, note the time again. Do this once a day, every day. After a few days of regular counting, you’ll notice that your baby has a regular pattern for how long it takes to get to ten movements. This is what is normal for your baby. If your baby hasn’t moved at least ten times in two hours from when you started counting, or you notice a decrease in movement from their usual pattern, please notify your healthcare provider immediately.



Changes to Expect

Physical

- You may experience increased shortness of breath, fatigue, swelling, joint pain, hemorrhoids, leg cramps, groin or pelvic pain and other common discomforts until delivery.
- You may pass your mucus plug at once or over the course of several days. This is normal and does not indicate the onset of labor.
- After delivery:
 - It is normal to experience soreness, fullness, and tingling in your breasts. If you have redness, warmth or a fever greater than 100.4F, please call your healthcare provider.
 - You will experience vaginal bleeding which is called lochia. It is normal for this discharge to be bright or dark red in color initially postpartum, but it lightens in color and flows to pink or brown tinged, then yellow to white. Keep in mind, this varies for each woman. If you are soaking more than one pad an hour, please contact your healthcare provider immediately.
 - Hormones, surgery, medications, dehydration and decreased physical activity may make your bowel function slower after birth. The first bowel movement may be uncomfortable.



Comfort Tips

Continue to wear disposable breast pads or purchase reusable breast pads that may be washed if you are leaking from your nipples.

Avoid using soaps or creams on your breasts.

Continue eating small, well-balanced meals with increased fiber and water intake.

While sitting, have your feet raised. You may find wearing support hose and comfortable shoes may help.

A period of rest during the day may be helpful for fatigue and mood support.

When lying down to rest, it may help to lay on one side and cross your upper leg over a pillow.

Prenatal massage may help alleviate pain and promote restful sleep.

After delivery, it will be important to rest as much as possible, limit visitors, allow others to do things for you and let your support person know how you are feeling.

Accidents Can Happen; Prevent Infant Falls

- To keep your baby safe, place the baby in the bassinet when you become sleepy to prevent infant drops.
- Anyone caring for the baby should be fully alert and focused on safety.
- If you are taking pain medication or things that may make you sleepy, ask your nurse for assistance.

Changes to Expect

Emotional

- Discuss how you're feeling about childbirth with your support person.
- After delivery, you may experience sadness, crying, irritability, mood swings or impatience. These symptoms are known as "Baby Blues," which should only last 2-3 weeks postpartum. The Baby Blues occur in 9 out of 10 women who deliver, due to the extreme hormonal changes. If your symptoms last longer than 2-3 weeks after delivery or are severe, please notify your healthcare provider.
- If you have scary or upsetting thoughts that don't go away or you have little interest in doing things that you used to enjoy, contact your healthcare provider immediately.
- If you feel out of touch with reality or if you hear or see things that other people don't, call 911 or go to the nearest ER.

Write down how you're feeling emotionally during this stage of your pregnancy:

Wellness

Lifestyle

- Healthy relationships do not include patterns of behavior to maintain control emotionally, physically, psychologically or sexually.
 - Intimate partner violence is the leading cause of injury to women of childbearing age and can affect anyone.
 - Ask for information from your provider if this could be you.
 - If you need help, please call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1 (800) 799-7233.
 - Local Women's Resource Center www.wrcdv.org; 24/7 hotline: (404) 688-9436.
- Do not wait to discuss postpartum birth control options with your provider. Family planning is important for your overall health and well-being

Health & Nutrition

- You and baby are in the final stages preparing for birth. Remember to remain healthy and active as advised by your provider.
- It is recommended to consume 8-10 cups of water daily.

Medications

- Remember to take your prenatal vitamin daily during your pregnancy and while you're breastfeeding.

Plan for Baby

- Remember, it is important to choose a pediatrician prior to delivery and then schedule a pediatric appointment upon discharge.
- An installed car seat is required prior to discharge. For more information, please visit www.safekidsgeorgia.org.
- Placing baby skin-to-skin with mom or another support person is a recommended best practice for all babies. This promotes a smooth physical and emotional transition into the outside world.
- In the hospital, your baby will be rooming in with you, which is a beneficial way of learning your baby's feeding cues, responding to their cries more quickly, can make breastfeeding easier and more frequent, and provides an easy way for you to monitor your baby.

If you are having a planned Cesarean (C-section) delivery or anticipate you may possibly have one, scan this QR code to access our helpful Enhanced Recovery After Cesarean (C-section) booklet.



Point your phone camera here to get started

