

March 30, 2020

Dear OB Patient,

The current COVID-19 Pandemic has caused much uncertainty and additional anxiety. We want to reassure you that we are committed to you and your health during this unprecedented time. To help reduce some uncertainty we would like to update you on some changes to our practice.

Your health is our priority! As you enter the clinic, you will be screened for the presence of COVID-19 symptoms. Those who have symptoms will be asked to wear a mask and will be seen downstairs in our Urgent Care. Patients who do not have symptoms will continue to be seen with your provider. The hospital will have a similar screening exam for patients arriving at the ER or Labor and Delivery. They are also suspending all water births and nitrous oxide use until further notice to minimize exposure to staff from asymptomatic positive COVID patients.

Please note that both the Hudson Hospital and Hudson Physicians are restricting visitors. In the clinic we are asking that no unnecessary personnel accompany you for your visit. Currently, we are allowing one visitor for the 20-week ultrasound. Hudson Hospital is allowing only one visitor for patients in Labor and Delivery. The visitor cannot be changed or rotated during your stay. In both the clinic and the hospital, children who are not patients are not allowed as visitors at any time.

We are excited to announce that we are now doing telemedicine visits which is a virtual visit that will be billed to your health insurance. The telemedicine visit can take the place of a routine OB visit. Of course, there are some things that cannot be done virtually, such as listening to the fetal heartbeat, blood pressure checks, labs, and physical exams.

At this time, we are suggesting the following:

- 4-6-week pregnancy confirmation – telemedicine or in clinic
- 7-8 first trimester ultrasound – in clinic
- 10-12-week initial OB exam with labs – in clinic
- 16-week prenatal visit – in clinic
- 20-week ultrasound and visit – in clinic
- 24-week visit – telemedicine or in clinic
- 28-week visit with 1-hour glucose test – in clinic
- 32-week visit – telemedicine or in clinic
- 34-week visit – telemedicine or in clinic
- 36-week visit with GBS test and cervical exam – in clinic
- 37, 38, 39 -week visits – in clinic.

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The above schedule is only a recommendation and can change based on your individual needs. Please plan to discuss at your appointment what type of visit is best for your next appointment. Non-OB visits can also be done virtually.

To schedule a telemedicine visit, please call the main clinic scheduling line at 715-531-6800 and selection option 1. Once the appointment is scheduled, you will be sent an *e-mail with instructions* on how to log in using Skype for Business. All telemedicine visits are integrated in our electronic medical record and encrypted for your privacy.

Our next biggest priority is to stay healthy as providers in order to ensure we are always available to care for you. In order to minimize our risk of exposure, we are making some changes to our schedules and will rotate between the clinic and Labor and Delivery. If we become sick, we will have healthy physicians ready to step in.

What does this mean for you? We are asking that you be flexible with who you see in the clinic as well as the hospital. You may be called and asked to change your provider for a visit that is already scheduled, or we may ask you to be flexible on the day you arrive. At this point we are not changing the date of previously scheduled appointments. In Labor and Delivery, you will most likely be cared for by the provider On-Call. We work as a close-knit group and during these extraordinary times trust each other to provide the same level of care that you are accustomed to. We thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

In Health,

Hudson Physicians