



Perinatal Wellness Guidelines

Routine recommendations for a healthy pregnancy

First Prenatal Visit

Your health care provider* will evaluate your personal health and family history to plan the best care for you and your new baby. The first visit is usually the longest, so be prepared. You may be asked about:

- The date of your last menstrual period to help predict when your baby will be born
- Health problems like diabetes, high blood pressure or sexually transmitted disease
- Past pregnancies and any complications
- Previous hospital admissions
- Current medicines, allergies to medicines and foods
- Vaccination history
- Whether you drink alcohol, use tobacco, or recreational drugs
- Your diet and eating habits and how much you exercise
- Stress in your life
- How safe you feel in your current living arrangements
- Health history of the baby's father and your family history

Your health care provider will also examine you, do some tests and offer advice. They may:

- Check your height, weight and blood pressure**
- Perform a physical exam, including a pelvic exam**
- Take a urine and blood sample to check for health conditions or infection**
- Prescribe prenatal vitamins
- Review immunization status and offer vaccines, such as influenza, if needed
- Give recommended screening for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection
- Provide education about what to expect during your pregnancy

*A health care provider could be a doctor (OB/GYN), primary care provider, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or other health care professional.

**These tests and exams may be repeated throughout the pregnancy

Later Prenatal Visits

Weeks 9-12:

- Check your hands, feet and face for swelling**
- Listen to the baby's heartbeat**
- Perform an ultrasound**
- Ask about the baby's movement**

Weeks 13-23:

- Measure the size of your cervix
- Measure the baby's growth**
- Screen for genetic conditions and brain and spinal cord abnormalities
- Perform ultrasound to check the baby's anatomy

Weeks 24-28:

- Screen for gestational diabetes and anemia
- Check your blood type and give medication if you have Rh-negative blood

Weeks 29-34:

- Administer Tdap vaccine
- Administer RSV vaccine (if RSV season)

Weeks 35 and later:

- Check for Group B streptococcus infection
- Monitor your baby's heart rate for 20-minutes
- Prepare you for labor

Normally, you will see your health care provider every four weeks for the first 28 weeks of pregnancy, then every two weeks until 36 weeks of pregnancy and then weekly until your baby is born*. Talk with your health care provider and bring a list of questions to every visit.



After Giving Birth

You should schedule a visit with your obstetrician or other care provider within the first three weeks after giving birth. A comprehensive visit should be done no later than 12 weeks after birth. Your health care provider:

- Will do an examination
- May do follow-up testing, if needed
- May give vaccinations, as needed
- May ask about breastfeeding

You may also be asked if you are feeling low, have lost interest in usual activities, have difficulty caring for your baby or have difficulty concentrating, focusing or making decisions.

*Depending on your health and the health of your unborn baby, your health care provider may wish to see you more often and do additional testing.

**These tests and exams may be repeated throughout the pregnancy.

The recommendations are based on information from The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The recommendations are not intended as medical advice nor meant to be a substitute for the individual medical judgment of a health care provider. Please check with your health care provider for individualized advice on the recommendations provided.

Source: Guidelines for Perinatal Care, Seventh Edition, American Academy of Pediatrics and The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists