

Should Ask Questions (SAQ) for Pregnant Patients

Whether you're pregnant or not, finding the right OB/GYN is important and can be overwhelming. Below is a list of questions that should help you to evaluate OB/GYN offices and assist in finding a comfortable fit for you during this exciting time.

1. How many doctors are in the practice? Will I see them all?

We have six female providers at Women's Health Associates. While we don't make our patients see all of our physicians, we do encourage you to rotate your visits, so if by chance another doctor is on call to deliver your baby, it will not be the first time you meet.

2. Who will deliver my baby?

At WHA, our doctors make every attempt to deliver their own patients. If the patient goes into labor on a day that the doctor works, the physician will deliver the patient. If a patient schedules an induction or c-section, the physician will deliver the patient.

If a patient delivers in the evening, on a weekend where that doctor is not on call, or when their doctor is on vacation, one of their partner physicians who are on call will deliver the patient. We do not share call with other practices or physicians outside WHA, so you can rest assured that one of our providers will be there for you.

3. How many babies has the practice delivered and how long have they been in practice?

WHA was established in 1993 and we deliver approximately 1200 babies each year among our six providers.

4. Are the physicians Board Certified in Obstetrics?

Yes, our physicians are all board certified and feel it's of importance to remain board certified.

5. What is the experience of the nursing staff?

Our team of nurses sets us apart from other practices. Everyone on our nursing team is a licensed professional, either an LPN or RN. Most of our nurses have hospital experience working in labor and delivery, postpartum and nursery units. More than one third of our nurses have been on staff at WHA for over 5 years. We are also unique in the fact that the same nurses consistently work with the same physician, and most have worked together as a team for quite some time.

6. What are the nurse phone call return policies for questions and emergencies?

Our nurses check messages at least every hour, and we are able to return a call same day, while some practices may take up to two days to return calls. Any "emergency" calls (emergency defined by patient) are handled immediately. Those patients are able to talk directly with a nurse and have the questions addressed with one phone call. We also have a 24/7 answering service so our patients can reach a physician at all times.

7. What is the accessibility to providers and how long will I have to wait to make an appointment?

WHA offers outstanding accessibility for our patients. For issues or problems, our patients are typically able to be seen by a provider same day. Most patients can be seen by a provider within two weeks of calling to make their appointment for routine visits and some providers can be seen within the week.

8. Do you have an ultrasound / sonogram in the office?

We are proud to offer sonograms in the office as a convenience to our patients. We even have capabilities to do 3-D sonograms in the office, and offer fun scans where the patient can see what the baby looks like (for an additional charge). Please discuss this service at your new patient appointment for further details.

9. What should I expect at my first appointment?

You will be seen by one of our OB Coordinators who will do bloodwork to confirm your pregnancy. She will meet with you in a private office setting to answer any questions you may have, review the policies of the office and what you can expect while under our care. She will direct you to important resources available to you. Prior to this appointment, we recommend you visit our website and download our free patient guide of what to expect while you're expecting from Women's Health Associates. You can also join us on Facebook for informational videos, patient stories and more. After this initial consultation with an OB Coordinator, you will schedule your first clinical visit with your provider of choice.

10. Do you offer payment plans?

At WHA, we are sensitive to the financial burden medical bills can place on a family and our patients. We feel it's important to work with our patients and have a dedicated team of billing and insurance experts who can explain your options and help determine what is best for you. We also pre-certify a patient's pregnancy with her insurance carrier to make it more convenient for our patients as they navigate their insurance benefits.

11. What hospitals do you deliver at?

We deliver at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission in Merriam, KS.