

## Surrogacy at Kingston Health Sciences Centre

Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) is committed to the acceptance of diversity; this includes surrogacy as a form of family planning. Our goal is to provide a positive experience for both the surrogate and intended parent(s).

### Before your baby is born

Ask the physician or midwife caring for the pregnancy to consult our Obstetrical Social Worker at 28 weeks gestation or as close to this time as possible. The Social Worker will arrange a meeting with the surrogate and intended parent(s) if the surrogate wishes to have the intended parent(s) present. The purpose of the meeting is to review surrogacy process at KHSC, discuss expectations and to review the birth plan. The Social Worker will complete the Surrogacy Form – Gestational Carrier Confirmation Consent with the surrogate.

If the intended parent(s) are not at the meeting with the surrogate and Social Worker, the Social Worker will attempt to arrange a separate meeting with the intended parent(s) to review hospital process, postpartum accommodations, and to obtain contact information including photo identification. The intended parent(s) photo identification, address and phone numbers will be placed on the baby's chart once born and entered into the baby's electronic record.

Intended parent(s) from another province or country, must contact the KHSC Finance Department through switchboard at (613) 549-6666. If the intended parent(s) are from another province/territory, it is important that they to speak with their provincial health care program and the hospital finance department to address health care coverage. If the intended parent(s) are from out of country, they will be required to pay the health care costs associated with their baby's care. Out of country intended parent(s) will also be required to sign the Governing Law and Jurisdiction Agreement.

### When your baby is born – Labour and Delivery

During the birth of the baby the surrogate is encouraged to have their own support person. The intended parent(s) are also permitted to attend the birth as long as they are invited by the surrogate. In the event your baby is delivered via caesarian section only one support person (selected by the surrogate) is permitted in the operating room. If medical emergencies arise during birth, the medical staff will determine who can be present.

### After your baby is born - Postpartum

After the baby is born, the surrogate and intended parent(s) will be asked to sign the Surrogacy Form – Substitute Decision Maker Consent which will allow the intended parent(s) to be decision makers for the baby.

If the surrogate is not discharged immediately from Labour and Delivery, their care will be provided on our postpartum unit. All efforts will be made to support the intended parent(s) to stay with their baby.

Intended parent(s) from out of province or country who were unable to speak with the KHSC finance department prior to the delivery, must contact the finance department via switchboard ((613) 549-6666) to review payment arrangements for the care of their baby.

## **Birth Documentation**

It is provincially required that the Notice of Live Birth(s) form be completed with the surrogate's information. The baby's identification band will have the surrogate's information and the band will need to stay on the baby while they are in hospital. Intended parent(s) will also be given identification bands that match their baby's.

## **Discharge from Hospital**

Intended parent(s) will be responsible for providing the hospital with the name and contact information of the health care provider that will be following the baby after discharge. Babies normally need to be seen within 3 to 5 days of discharge.

Intended parent(s) who are Ontario residents will be given the Registering Your Baby for Ontario Health Coverage form to take to Service Ontario so they can obtain OHIP for their baby.

## **Forms Required**

Surrogacy Form – Gestational Carrier Confirmation Consent – this is completed before your baby is born after we are made aware of the pregnancy.

Surrogacy Form – Substitute Decision Maker Consent – this is completed after your baby is born and reassigns decision making authority for the baby from the surrogate to the intended parent(s).

Photo ID – while in hospital we will place a copy of the intended parent(s) photo ID on the surrogate and baby's chart.

Registering Your Baby for Ontario Health Coverage: this is completed after your baby is born and is only for intended parent(s) from Ontario.

## **Additional Questions**

If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact the Obstetrical Social Worker available through KHSC switchboard at (613) 549-6666.