

Important Info for: SRMC Maternity Unit's & Salem Women's Health Partners' Patients

At Salem Regional Medical Center (SRMC), we understand and anticipate our communities' strong interest in how maternity care and OB/GYN physician services are provided locally. Our goal is to share timely information regarding the decision to close maternity services at SRMC on Friday, May 11, 2018 at 11:59 p.m., and the Salem Women's Health Partners (SWHP) practice as of June 30, 2018.

Salem Regional Medical Center will no longer accept maternity patients for delivery or C-section as of 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 11. We have appreciated the privilege of serving area families for many years; however, we will permanently close our maternity unit on Monday, May 14 at 3 p.m. In order to prepare for the unit's closure on May 14, we will not be able to accept any new patients as of 11:59 p.m. on May 11.

Please note that the original date for the maternity unit's closure was initially announced as June 30. This date has now been moved up to May 14, since our maternity staff has accepted positions elsewhere, and we will not be able to effectively staff the unit after May 14.

All maternity patients scheduled to deliver at SRMC after May 11 are being informed by their OB/GYN physician office of the revised maternity unit closure date. In addition, area maternity centers and community providers have also been notified.

*This information is also available on the SRMC website: salemregional.com and **OB Infoline at 330-332-7234.***

Why is SRMC's Maternity Unit Closing?

In March, the very difficult decision to close our OB service was announced after an extensive assessment of many factors, including our area's declining birth rate and the average number of babies born at SRMC dropping to 1.1 per day. Prior to making this decision, our Board of Directors had to strongly consider that approximately 70% of expectant mothers in our overall service area were already choosing to leave our community and deliver at non-SRMC maternity providers which offer on-site neonatal intensive care units.

Who will be impacted?

The maternity unit's closure will impact expectant mothers who are scheduled to deliver babies at SRMC after **May 11, 2018**. The closure will also impact patients who see the physicians affiliated with Salem Women's Health Partners (SWHP), as the practice will be closing on **June 30, 2018**.

I am a maternity patient. What should I do?

The Hospital's administration is collaborating with maternity providers at Mercy Health St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital and Aultman Hospital in Canton, and we have been assured that each of these maternity centers has affiliated obstetricians who are accepting new patients. A complete list of each facility's obstetricians can be found at: doctors.mercy.com or www.aultman.org.

Will SRMC perform emergency C-sections after May 11?

SRMC will not perform C-sections after **11:59 p.m. on May 11**. In the time that it would take to assemble a surgical support team, a maternity patient may be effectively transported to a neighboring maternity facility equipped with a C-Section Suite and the appropriate surgical support team.

How will maternity patients be managed who can't get to another maternity center to deliver?

The labor process for most women typically allows for time to travel to a maternity center. In the rare case where a woman is unable to reach a designated maternity center, SRMC has a full-service Emergency Department (ED) with an excellent team of ED physicians and staff who are ready to manage and treat emergencies.

In such a circumstance, if a patient is deemed too far advanced in labor to travel to another maternity provider by ambulance, then the expectant mother would be delivered at SRMC in the ED, and both mom and baby would be stabilized prior to any transport.

I am a gynecology patient at Salem Women's Health Partners. What should I do?

Salem Women's Health Partners' OB/GYN providers will continue to see their patients through June 30. After that time, you will need to make arrangements to transition to another provider, which may include a primary care provider who offers women's health services. SRMC is currently working to coordinate a level of GYN physician care to be available locally. We will advise our patients and the community when this availability is finalized

Please also note that there are many highly qualified primary care physicians in the area who are accepting new patients. A complete list of physicians affiliated with SRMC's medical staff is available at www.salemregional.com.

How do I transfer my Salem Women's Health Partners records?

Prior to June 30, you can call the office staff at **330-332-1939** to arrange for the transfer of your confidential medical record to another provider. After June 30, you can call **330-332-7685** to arrange for the transfer of your records. You will be asked to sign a release prior to transferring any records.

Will my children's pediatrician be impacted by this decision?

No. Please note that our SRMC-affiliated pediatricians will **not** be affected by the maternity unit's closing, and will continue providing care to area children through their office-based practices.

What is SRMC's ongoing commitment to serving the region's patients?

Our mission as a not-for-profit, independent hospital is closely aligned with meeting our communities' needs. As our area's demographics continue to change due to an aging population with increased rates of cancer and chronic disease, we will focus on offering specialized services that are uniquely tailored to these needs.

As Columbiana County's largest health care provider, we have made a significant commitment to providing state-of-the-art medical imaging services, nationally-recognized

orthopaedic care for joint repair and world-class cancer care through the University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center at Salem Regional Medical Center. The Hospital has a long-standing tradition of advancing health care in our region; and during the past year, we have brought world-class cancer diagnosis and treatment to area cancer patients; launched the newest technology for breast cancer detection; and expanded our outpatient services as we fulfill our mission: To Serve. To Care. To Heal.

05-08-2018