

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 and the Salem Women's Health Partners (SWHP) practice as of June 30, 2018.

The information provided below is **current as of March 27, 2018**; and provides information in a question and answer format regarding our transition process. Please note that new information will be updated on the SRMC website: salemregional.com and **OB Infoline at 330-332-7234**.

Why is SRMC's Maternity Unit Closing?

- This very difficult decision to close our OB service was reached after an extensive assessment of many factors, including our area's declining birth rate and changing customer preferences. Prior to making this decision, our Board of Directors had to strongly consider that approximately 70% of expectant mothers in our overall service area are already choosing to leave our community and deliver at non-SRMC maternity providers which offer on-site neonatal intensive care units.

After carefully performing a detailed evaluation of these and other factors, our Board of Directors made the tough decision to close maternity services based on current consumer preferences for maternity care, the safety of our patients, physician and staff resources, and financial performance data.

Who will be impacted?

- The maternity unit's closure will impact expectant mothers who are scheduled to deliver babies at SRMC after **June 30, 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?

- **Maternity services will continue to be provided at SRMC through June 30.** 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 aultman.org.

Will SRMC perform emergency C-sections after June 30?

- SRMC will not perform C-sections after **June 30**. 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. Please 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.

Where can I find more information?

- If you are a SWHP patient, you should receive a letter within the next week with more information. However, as new information becomes available, it will be posted on SRMC’s and SWHP’s websites, and on SRMC’s **OB Infoline at 330-332-7234.**

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.