

## **Mercy Clinic Ob/Gyn Physician On-Call Policy**

As physicians caring for the special needs of women, we are sensitive to our patients' needs. The physicians at Mercy Clinic Ob/Gyn delight in delivering the babies of patients they have seen throughout their pregnancies. As much as the doctors would like to be able to deliver each and every baby, other duties and obligations may not allow them to attend your delivery.

### **Physician Coverage During Business Hours**

Whenever possible, your physician will deliver the babies of their patients. If this situation occurs during regular office hours, it may be necessary for your office appointment to be delayed, rescheduled, or moved to an associate physician or nurse practitioner. The office staff will notify you regarding the expected amount of additional wait time you will experience, or you may choose to see another provider who may be available. If you are unable to wait or to see another provider, the receptionist will assist you in scheduling the next available appointment with your physician.

If you go into labor during the day, but do not deliver your baby by the end of the work day, the physician who is on call will likely assume your care and deliver your baby. The on-call physician will also assume your care in the event of your physician's scheduled time off.

### **Physician On-Call Policy**

Our physicians take turns providing evening patient care for our patients. After hours coverage begins at 6:00 pm and continues until 6:00 am on the following business day. On holidays and weekends, coverage begins at 5:00 pm on the last work day before the holiday or weekend, and ends at 6:00 am on the next regular business day. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30-4:30 and Friday 8:30-3:30. Occasionally we have a nurse on call to answer your urgent questions at (314) 388-6534. If you require additional assistance, you may be instructed to go to the hospital for evaluation of your situation; where our physicians will be evaluating your condition along with the hospital staff.

Depending on your evaluation, it may not be necessary for a physician to come to the hospital.

For example, if the hospital staff determines that you are not in labor, your water has not broken, and that you and your baby are not in need of urgent medical attention; you may be sent home without seeing a physician. If you are in labor, the physician may not arrive immediately, since labor times last from eight to twelve hours on average. The nurses at labor and delivery will update the physician regularly regarding your progress, any significant changes, or if medical intervention is necessary. Many of our physicians will review your fetal tracings remotely via a secure computer connection to assure that you and your baby are doing well.

If you have concerns about your physician's ability to specifically be in attendance at your delivery, please discuss these concerns your physician. All of the physicians of our office and call group have similar philosophies regarding women's health. We treat our patients as we would like to be treated. Each physician is confident in the abilities of the other physician team members and their abilities to provide the best possible care when they, themselves, cannot be there.

Physicians who may delivery your baby are:

Shafia Bhutto, M.D.  
Julia Lagow, D.O.  
Cynthia Mueller, M.D.  
Christina Meddows-Jackson, M.D.  
Barbara Walsh, M. D.  
Allison Walsh, M.D.

Thank you for choosing Mercy Clinic Ob/Gyn. We look forward to sharing this special event with you.