

## KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON EXPECTANT MOMS AND THEIR UNBORN BABIES

For families expecting a baby, few life experiences bring the joy, excitement and anticipation of the wondrous months of pregnancy. Most pregnancies are healthy, resulting in uncomplicated deliveries. Some women, however, may require closer attention during their pregnancies for a number of reasons. Under such circumstances, your obstetrician may recommend a consultation with a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center—the *only* facility in the region to offer this expertise.

A Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist (also known as a perinatologist) is an obstetrician who is specialty trained in the diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing care of mothers and their unborn babies, who may be affected by serious illness or increased pregnancy risk. Don't let the words "high risk" alarm you. This general term is applied to situations where the mother, developing fetus, or both, may be at higher-than-normal risk for complications during pregnancy or after birth.

Being referred to a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist does not necessarily mean your pregnancy will be problematic; nor does it mean your baby will have health challenges. Your obstetrician may suggest seeking the expertise of a perinatologist as a precaution at any point during your pregnancy, as well as to help alleviate your family's anxiety.

If the need for specialized testing, fetal surveillance, and/or treatment should arise, rest assured The Reading Hospital and Medical Center has in place the sophisticated equipment, premier facilities, and experienced medical team to provide the complete care you and your unborn baby need.



### HOW TO CONTACT US

Upon referral from your obstetrician, you can schedule an appointment for a consultation with our Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist by calling **610-988-8972**.

For more details about Maternal-Fetal Medicine at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center, visit our website at [www.readinghospital.org/mfm](http://www.readinghospital.org/mfm)



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# MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE

Diagnosis | Treatment | Specialized Care



## WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE SERVICES?

A woman may be referred to a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist if her obstetrician suspects a special pregnancy-related matter or if a problem develops during the pregnancy. Our perinatologist is available 24 hours a day to consult with your obstetrician. Conditions that may cause complications include:

- Maternal age over 35
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Diabetes
- Kidney disease
- Multiple births (twins, triplets, etc.)
- Health conditions existing along with the pregnancy (thyroid, heart or sickle cell disease; lupus, HIV, etc.)
- A family history of birth anomalies, genetic diseases, or multiple pregnancy losses

## SERVICES WE OFFER:

- Routine and specialized obstetric ultrasound in all three trimesters
- Maternal-fetal consultations, both inpatient and outpatient
- Preconception counseling
- Genetic counseling
- Nuchal translucency screening in first trimester
- Amniocentesis
- Acceptance of maternal transports from outlying hospitals for potential use of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- Collaborative relationships with Neonatology and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to facilitate the best possible neonatal outcomes
- Fetal echocardiography
- Diabetes in Pregnancy Program

## NONINVASIVE, LOW-RISK SCREENING FOR MOTHER AND HER LITTLE ONE

For women anticipating or experiencing a high-risk pregnancy, the perinatologist may recommend one of the newest screening tests for chromosomal abnormalities—the first trimester screen. Studies show this method is the most accurate noninvasive screening available and poses no known risks to mother or baby. The first trimester screen combines a maternal blood screening test with an ultrasound evaluation of the fetus to identify risk for specific chromosomal abnormalities, including Down's Syndrome Trisomy-21 and Trisomy-18. Besides screening for chromosomal abnormalities, the first trimester screen can assist in identifying other significant abnormalities in the fetus, including cardiac disorders.



Keep in mind a screening test does not diagnose a problem. It only estimates your chances of carrying a baby with a genetic disorder and may indicate the need for further testing. In addition to screening, we have the advanced technology and know-how to help diagnose your baby's risks for genetic, growth and structural differences.

Prior to high-risk testing, genetic counselors may be consulted to evaluate and counsel families regarding their pregnancy-related risks. By working closely with our staff, expertly trained genetic counselors strive to put families at ease by informing them of what can be expected in their particular circumstances. The genetic counselors can also educate you about other available screening options, and their detection rates and limitations, so you can choose the tests that are best for you.

## OUR EXPERIENCED AND COMPASSIONATE STAFF

As the region's only provider of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, we have an understanding of the needs unique to the pregnant women and unborn babies for whom we care. Our knowledgeable, concerned medical team will walk you through every step of evaluation, diagnosis, testing and/or treatment.

To ensure mother and baby have optimal care in place throughout the remainder of the pregnancy and during and after delivery, our Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist will remain in close contact with your obstetrician, who will deliver your baby. They may consult a neonatologist, who if needed, can oversee the baby's care after delivery.

## MEET OUR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE TEAM



### **William M. Curtin, MD, Chief, Section of Maternal-Fetal Medicine**

An expert in complex diagnosis of the fetus, Dr. Curtin is also extensively trained in the field of high-risk obstetrics and is board certified by The American Board of Pathology and The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, with special qualification in Maternal-Fetal Medicine. He also maintains certification in electronic fetal monitoring. Having been part of the academic faculty in the division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Dr. Curtin is uniquely qualified to provide an extensive range of maternal-fetal services.



### **A. George Neubert, MD, Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology**

Dr. Neubert specializes in the advanced knowledge of the obstetrical, medical, genetic, and surgical complications of pregnancy and their effects on both the mother and fetus. Dr. Neubert is board-certified in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is a graduate of Hahnemann University School of Medicine and completed his residency at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center. Dr. Neubert is Member of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.



### **Richard K. DeVeaux, MD, FACOG**

Dr. DeVeaux is board-certified in Maternal-Fetal Medicine as well as Obstetrics and Gynecology. A graduate of Hahnemann University School of Medicine, Dr. DeVeaux completed his residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He is a member of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

## NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE SPECIAL CARE FOR SPECIAL BABIES

Newborn babies who need intensive medical attention are often admitted into a special area of the Hospital called the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Our 22-bed Level II/III NICU combines advanced technology and trained healthcare professionals to provide specialized care for the tiniest patients.

Parents, grandparents, and baby's siblings are welcome to visit (with limitations during flu season). And, we perform all lab work and IV's within our unit; our treatment modalities include Dräger ventilators, oscillators, and photo therapy.