

# Surrogacy



Surrogacy is an arrangement, often supported by a legal agreement, whereby a woman (the surrogate mother) agrees to bear a child for another person or persons, who will become the child's parent(s) after birth – referred to throughout this document as the intended parents.

If the intended parents live in a different locality to the surrogate the relevant maternity units will need to liaise to provide the appropriate care.

There are two types of surrogacy:

Full surrogacy (also known as host or gestational surrogacy) is when the eggs of the intended mother or a donor are used and there is therefore no genetic connection between the baby and the surrogate.

Partial surrogacy (also known as straight or traditional surrogacy) involves the surrogate's egg being fertilised with the sperm of the intended father.

## Antenatal considerations

*The intended parents do not have legal rights to the fetus or to make any decisions about care during pregnancy. Health professionals should be aware of this but also have an open and honest discussion with the surrogate and the intended parents about what matters to them and what their plan is for pregnancy and birth.*

**1/ Will the intended parents attend antenatal appointments with the surrogate?**

- Yes  
 No

**2/ Will the intended parents attend the scan appointments with the surrogate?**

- Yes  
 No

**3/ Who will attend antenatal classes?**

- Surrogate  
 Intended parents  
 Both

**What information will be shared with the antenatal class group if attending?**

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**4/ Have plans in relation to antenatal appointments/classes been discussed with the midwifery team?**

Yes

No

**My thoughts, feelings and questions:**

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### **Labour considerations**

*Please be aware that the intended parents will not be able to give consent for any care including any emergency and that decisions taken must be in the best interest of the surrogate.*

**5/ Have you discussed what is possible regarding birth partners/accommodation etc...**

Yes

No

**My thoughts, feelings and questions:**

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**6/ My birth partner will be...**

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**7/ Who wants to discover the sex of the baby?**

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**8/ Does someone want to cut the cord? If yes, who?**

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**9/ If the birth is a caesarean section have you discussed who will attend? If yes, who?**

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**10/ Who wishes to do skin to skin if possible, with the baby immediately after the birth?**

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**11/ What is the feeding plan?**

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**My thoughts, feelings and questions:**

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### **Postnatal care**

**12/ What can the hospital do to support your postnatal wishes? Is there a plan of care?**

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**13/ Can the health visiting service do anything to support?**

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**14/ Who will provide and support baby's care postnatally?**

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**15/ Do the intended parents wish to be alone with baby in a separate room?**

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**16/ Has the surrogate signed a delegated parental responsibility form so that it is clear who can consent to postnatal treatment if required? For example: Vitamin K, newborn blood spot screening.**

Yes

No

**17/ If the surrogate has been discharged from hospital prior to the baby has written consent for the baby's discharge been obtained?**

Yes

No

**My thoughts, feelings and questions:**

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### **Additional information and national support group:**

#### **Having a child through surrogacy**

Information, from the Department of Health and Social Care, for intended parents, surrogates and health professionals about the surrogacy process in England and Wales.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/having-a-child-through-surrogacy>

#### **Surrogacy: legal rights of parents and surrogates**

<https://www.gov.uk/legal-rights-when-using-surrogates-and-donors>

**Surrogacy UK** was formed in 2002, by a group of surrogates who believed that a successful journey for both surrogates and intended parent(s) was one based on trust, mutual respect and, above all, friendship.

<https://surrogacyuk.org/>