

Understanding the Role of an Obstetrician During Pregnancy and Birth



Highlights

Obstetricians provide specialized medical care during pregnancy and birth. Some people choose to have a private obstetrician to provide antenatal care throughout pregnancy.

If you choose to see a private obstetrician for your pregnancy care, the cost can vary widely, so it's a good idea to ask about likely fees and out-of-pocket costs before your first appointment.

If you are planning to give birth in a public hospital or in a birth center, you might only see an obstetrician if there is a medical need or complication. If you receive your antenatal care in the public system, you won't usually pay out-of-pocket expenses to see an obstetrician.

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Role of the Obstetrician in Pregnancy

Check your baby's growth and position
Conduct or refer you for routine tests and checks
Help you prepare for labor and birth

Role of the Obstetrician During Labor and Birth

Post-Birth Role of the Obstetrician

Costs of Seeing an Obstetrician

The type of care you receive
Whether it's in a hospital or not
Whether you have private health insurance
What the obstetrician charges

Seeing an Obstetrician as a Public Patient

Seeing an Obstetrician as a Private Patient

Asking About Costs

Tools and Assistance

Health Direct: Offers a directory of healthcare providers, including obstetricians. It can be helpful in finding an obstetrician who meets your specific needs and preferences.

Pregnancy Support Helplines: Many non-profit organizations offer helplines to answer questions about pregnancy care, including advice on choosing an obstetrician and managing costs.

Patient Advocacy Services: Many regions have services that advocate for patients' rights and provide assistance in navigating the healthcare system. These services can help you understand your options for obstetric care.

Insurance Advisors: If you have private insurance, an advisor can help you understand what is covered in your obstetric care, including consultations, hospital fees, and any out-of-pocket costs.

Pregnancy and Birth Forums: Online forums and support groups can provide valuable insights from other people who have been through pregnancy and birth. They often have recommendations for obstetricians based on personal experiences.

Local Health Centers: Many local health centers offer guidance and can help connect you with obstetricians, especially in more rural or underserved areas.