

## Circumcision

Deciding whether to circumcise your newborn boy is an important choice for parents. Circumcision is an elective procedure to remove the foreskin that covers the tip of the penis. Some parents choose to have their sons circumcised because of hygiene, potential health benefits, or for religious, social, or cultural reasons. Circumcision is not essential to a child's health, so parents should consider the risks and benefits before deciding if they want it done for their child.

The procedure is usually done before the mother and baby leave the hospital. A local anesthetic is used to lessen any discomfort. The foreskin is then surgically removed. Often times a plastic ring is used during the procedure that will come off on its own as the penis heals over the following week. Sometimes vaseline or gauze may be placed over the cut to protect it from rubbing against the diaper. A mild soap and water can be used to gently clean the penis while healing from circumcision. The skin on the penis is typically healed within 7-10 days after the procedure.

Complications from a circumcision are rare. However, every surgery carries some risk. Complications that can occur are:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Injury to the penis or urethra
- Scarring

In rare cases, the circumcision may need to be redone.

If you have questions, concerns, or are undecided about the procedure, speak with your physician during your pregnancy so you have enough time to make an informed decision.

# Circumcision Policy

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Our circumcision policy is outlined below:

Should you choose for West Ridge Obstetrics and Gynecology to perform a circumcision on your baby before you leave the hospital, a fee of \$160 is to be paid to the office prior to your 36-week prenatal visit.

If your child is added to your insurance plan or you obtain Blue Choice Option or MVP Option for your child, please contact our billing department as soon as possible. Once we have this information a claim will be sent to the insurance carrier. (NOTE: there is a time limit for claim submissions.) Once the insurance carrier has paid the circumcision claim, we will promptly reimburse you for the fee paid if there is no balance on your account.

West Ridge Obstetrics & Gynecology does not participate with Medicaid; therefore you will be responsible for the cost of the circumcision if performed by a West Ridge Physician.

Any questions regarding this policy can be directed to the Billing Department.