

THIRD TRIMESTER NEWS

Well done! This is your final lap towards childbirth.



THIRD TRIMESTER (Weeks 27 to 40)

You are now in the **third trimester** of pregnancy. It won't be long before you'll be holding your little bundle of joy.

What happens to your body?

- Your belly is now getting much bigger and may sag a little lower. Your belly button may protrude slightly.
- You may have backache and cramps in your feet or hands.
- You may tend to feel hot and perspire more.
- You may feel very uncomfortable and experience slight shortness of breath. Lie with your shoulders elevated on pillows if you feel short of breath. When your baby starts to descend into the pelvis, you will feel more comfortable.
- You may feel uncomfortable and struggle to get enough restful sleep. Lie on your left side and place a pillow between your legs or under your tummy to take the pressure off your back.
- Some women experience false contractions called 'Braxton Hicks' contractions, around week 32 to 34. If you feel contractions, consult your midwife or doctor.
- A total weight gain of 10 to 12.5kg during your pregnancy is perfectly normal and recommended.

What happens to your body?

- Your baby's organs are maturing.
- The baby's movements become more vigorous but later, as baby grows and space becomes limited, these may become less obvious.
- The ideal weight for a newborn is between 2.6kg and 3.8kg.





Your third trimester to-do list

- Continue taking your minerals and multivitamins as prescribed by your doctor.
- Eat a well-balanced diet. **Remember:** even though you are 'eating for two', you do not have to eat twice as much. You may eat a little bit more than usual.
- Book an antenatal class for you and your partner – check if this will be covered by your Scheme benefits.
- Do some research about what to expect at your delivery and discuss delivery options with your doctor or midwife.
- Contact the Scheme at about 34 weeks to confirm your benefits and to obtain pre-authorisation for your admission to hospital for delivery and confinement.
- It is important to 'book your bed' with the hospital where you plan to deliver your baby.
- Keep the telephone numbers handy of your doctor/midwife as well as the labour ward/hospital – save them on your and your partner's cell phone and put it up on the fridge!



Remember to register your baby as a dependant on the Scheme within 30 days of the birth date to ensure that any medical treatment they may need will be covered by the Scheme benefits.



If you like the idea of enjoying your antenatal classes and consultations in the comfort of your own home, we invite you to engage with our **Belly Babies online programme**.

By registering on www.bellybabies.co.za, you will have access to expert antenatal and postnatal support in the comfort of your own home through:

- an online antenatal course consisting of a comprehensive collection of videos, presented by various experts within the maternity field;
- an online face-to-face consultation with a highly qualified lactation (breastfeeding) specialist, to help you and your baby establish and maintain a happy breastfeeding routine. You can book your personal consultation through the Belly Babies online platform; and
- a follow-up online face-to-face consultation with a lactation specialist, if needed.

PG Group Medical Scheme wishes you well on your pregnancy journey!

The content of this publication is the intellectual property of Momentum Health Solutions (Pty) Ltd, and any reproduction of this publication is prohibited unless written consent is obtained.

10/2022

MATERNITY PROGRAMME

Telephone 0860 005 037 Email maternity@pggmeds.co.za Website www.pggmeds.co.za