

8 KEY FACTS



Pregnancy
Sickness
Support

HG & Surrogacy

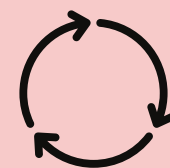
Considerations for Surrogates and Intended Parents

Produced in partnership with
SURROGACYUK



1 GENETIC

Although a surrogate may be sensitive to GDF-15 and therefore at risk of HG, it is possible that other genetic links for HG could be carried by the father, so it is useful to know the history of both the egg and the sperm where possible in regards to pregnancy sickness and HG.



2 RECURRENCE

Once a woman has experienced HG, there is around an 80% chance she will suffer again. In surrogacy, it is likely that a surrogate will experience HG again if she carries sibling embryos.



3 RISKS

HG carries some additional risks for both Mum and baby if it is not appropriately treated including low birth weight, miscarriage, pre eclampsia and neurodevelopmental differences. Around 50% of HG sufferers consider termination.



4 MEDICATIONS

It is understandable that Intended Parents feel nervous about medications and the potential impact on the baby but research shows that there are minimal risks to baby for most of the medications in use in the UK.



5 BOUNDARIES

Women suffering with HG need a lot of rest and a lot of support. Discuss at the agreement stage how you can support your surrogate in the event of HG so you know what the boundaries will be.



6 COMMUNICATION

Communication can be extremely difficult when suffering with HG. It may be necessary for communication to pass to the surrogate's partner or family member during HG. Try to limit questions as these can feel like pressure.



7 SUPPORT

If a surrogate experiences HG, she will need a lot of additional support. It is important to discuss how Intended parents can be included in the support network at the agreement stage so that key elements of support are in place from the start of HG.



8 CONTINGENCY

In the event of HG, there may be additional costs incurred (Contingency) by the surrogate including extra child care, loss of earnings, home help, etc. These need to be discussed at the agreement stage so there are no surprises.