

Samaritan Ministries



Note: Samaritan Ministries is a Christian Healthcare Share, which serves as an alternative method to health insurance. When the words "share" and "shareables" are used within this document, they refer to Samaritan members voluntarily giving financial support to other members, who are in need of financial help for medical procedures or visits. This voluntary giving is a member's "monthly share." If something is "shareable," that means Samaritan approves of the specific medical need(s) which members can financially contribute to, in accordance with Samaritan's guidelines (e.g., abortion is not sharable, but the delivery of a baby and postnatal care are sharable).

Stance on Abortion and Contraception

Samaritan Ministries supports the dignity of human life by rejecting abortion and contraception. They do not allow these to be shared as part of their guidelines. (*Guidelines for Health Care Sharing* booklet can be viewed underneath this pdf on the Watchlist.)

On pages 4-5, Samaritan states the following about the dignity of human life:

Mankind is the crown of His Creation. Because we bear the image of God, **we are to respect all human life at all stages of development.** Therefore, we live according to Biblical principles in all aspects of our lives by treating our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. On page 56, Samaritan states the following about abortion and contraception:

D. Non-Qualifying Items-SMI is committed to honoring Jesus Christ in all our ways, spiritual and practical. **Therefore, some of the medical practices that are listed below are not shareable because they are contrary to Scripture, even though prescribed by a licensed medical professional.** Additionally, other items are not shared for various practical reasons. Because the Guidelines cannot list all possible treatments that violate Biblical principles, SMI retains the discretion to not share such treatments, whether or not doctor prescribed, even though not listed below. 1. Abortion—Expenses for abortion of a living, unborn baby will not be shareable...7. Contraceptives—Items prescribed or used primarily for contraception are not shareable.

Page 52 explains Samaritan's stance on sterilization:

Elective sterilization such as tubal ligation and vasectomy, or the reversal of the same, is not shareable. But, reversals may be shareable as Special Prayer Needs. Procedures that result in sterilization are shareable if the reason for them is to treat a medical condition.

On page 61, the guidelines booklet also explains Samaritan's stance on ectopic pregnancies:

a. Expenses Shared—Procedures related to a ruptured fallopian tube (including post-operative recovery of the mother, follow-up care, and treatment of any complications), and, where an ectopic pregnancy is diagnosed before a rupture, all pre-operative tests and consultations and

expenses related to keeping the mother under medical care while determining what care should be offered for the mother and child.

b. Expenses Not Shared—Procedures directly related to the termination of a living, unborn child and/or removal of the living, unborn child from the mother due to an ectopic pregnancy are not shared (e.g. methotrexate, salpingectomy, salpingostomy), unless the removal of the child from its ectopic location was for the primary purpose of saving the life of the child or improving the health of the child.

<https://www.morningcenter.org/>

In an email exchange, Joel Noble, Samaritan’s director of public policy, told ALL that in 2011, Samaritan “started the Morning Center which provides free prenatal care and other services to moms in need. It has one clinic operating in Atlanta, one in relaunch mode in Memphis, and another in the early planning stages in Dallas.” Morning Center also works with pregnancy care centers.

Stance on Euthanasia

On page 56 in the Samaritan guideline’s booklet (above), they state that they do not support or provide sharing for euthanasia: “9. Euthanasia—Expenses for intentionally terminating a human life are not shareable.”

Stance on LGBTQ+ Lifestyle

Samaritan Ministries lists their stance on page 15 of their guidelines on LGBTQ+ lifestyles: “Abstain from any sexual activity outside of traditional Biblical marriage as designed by God between one biological man and one biological woman, which precludes rejecting one’s biological sex in any manner. GEN 1:27, 2:24 | MATT 19:5 | 1 COR 6:18”

Stance on IVF/Assisted Reproductive Technologies

Samaritan does not provide sharables for IVF and other infertility treatments. Joel Noble, director of public policy for Samaritan Ministries, told ALL in a phone conversation that Samaritan Ministries does allow special prayer needs (though

not sharables) for embryo adoption in hopes that frozen embryos are not destroyed or discarded and that life may be preserved. This is also stated on page 56 of Samaritan's booklet as well:

10. Infertility Expenses—Bills for prescriptions, tests, treatment, in vitro fertilization, or other procedures primarily to address infertility are not shareable. However, medical expenses for an embryo adoption and implantation by a married couple will be eligible for sharing as a Special Prayer Need.

NOTE: American Life League has previously written on embryo adoption, following closely to what the Magisterium of the Catholic Church has said about embryo adoption. Please read the following for more information:

<https://all.org/ivf/embryo-adoption>

<https://all.org/judie-brown-commentary/frozen-embryo-adoption-a-second-look>

<https://all.org/judie-brown-commentary/new-vatican-instruction-on-bioethics-dignitas-personae>



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