



RABBI GIDEON

**Machon Puah for Fertility and
Gynecology in Accordance with Halacha**

WEITZMAN

PUAH on the Homefront

This Simchat Torah will remain forever in our collective Jewish memory. Israel was plunged into a state of war and emergency that affected everyone; the soldiers on the frontlines, as well as the families they left at home.

Like many others, PUAH quickly assessed how we could serve the urgent and immediate needs of Israel. One of the ways that we are able to do so was to adapt a program that we developed to help married couples prepare for their wedding day.

One concern for the young couple about to get married is that the bride will be able to go to the mikvah before the wedding day. This seems to be a simple undertaking, and basic timing of the wedding date should be instrumental in ensuring that the couples stand underneath the Chuppah after having been to the mikvah.

However, in many cases it is far from simple, and most couples rely on hormonal medication to guarantee that the bride will be able to go to the mikvah before the wedding. In the past we saw many cases, with even the best intentions, that did not receive the correct medical advice. A woman took hormones and was still not able to go to the mikvah due to a reaction to the hormones, or an inappropriate medical plan.

A couple of years ago, one of the PUAH

Rabbis decided to improve this situation. Rabbi Lior Segev contacted a few religious female gynecologists and suggested that they provide tailor-made plans for each bride. The program called Likrat Kallah, is run by one of our female counselors, Dr. Moriel Yarchi, and she performs an intake for each bride, communicates with the doctors, and receives a specific plan regarding the course of treatment. She is also available for emergencies and last-minute changes to the plan if necessary.

Several hundred women have been through this program and only a handful have not been able to go to the mikvah prior to their wedding day.

Since the beginning of the current war a new reality has emerged; young men and women want to get married, and, due to them serving in the military, often need to change the wedding date. This requires creative solutions and increasing accessibility to this program. The staff running it have made themselves available for such amazing couples, entering into married life in the middle of a war, even in the most difficult circumstances. PUAH has been able to remove one complication and enable the brides to get to the mikvah on time.

More on this next time. ■