

Group B Streptococcus (GBS)/ Chorioamnionitis Newborn Follow-up Care

During birth, some infections can be passed from the mother to her baby. Two common infections are:

- Group B Streptococcus (GBS)
- Chorioamnionitis

GBS

GBS is a bacteria normally found in the vagina or rectum of about 1 out of 4 healthy, adult women. If GBS is detected late in pregnancy, IV (into the vein) antibiotics are given to the mother during labor to help prevent the baby getting GBS infection. If less than 4 hours of antibiotics are given, about 1 out of every 200 babies may develop a GBS infection.

*If you have
any questions,
please ask your
doctor or nurse.*

Chorioamnionitis (Chorio)

Chorioamnionitis is an infection inside the uterus. Most often it occurs if:

- Labor begins prior to 37 weeks
- The bag of water breaks more than 18 hours before birth

Signs of this infection include:

- Fever of 100.4° F or higher during labor
- Foul-smelling amniotic fluid

Chorio can cause an infection of the baby's lungs, spinal cord or brain. If a mother has chorio, her baby will be given IV antibiotics. Of all babies born to mothers with chorio, 98 to 99% will not become infected, if treated.

Follow-up Care

While in the hospital or at home, it is important to watch for signs of an infection in your baby.

These may include:

- Very fast or difficulty breathing
- Blue color to the skin

- Temperature changes: body feels cooler to the touch (than usual)
- A fever of 100° F or more rectally. (Many babies with an infection do not have a fever.)
- Changes in behavior:
 - Sleepiness – hard to wake up the baby
 - Irritable
 - Refuses to feed

If your baby has any of these signs, be sure to call your baby’s doctor right away.

Early treatment is vital because:

- Antibiotics take at least 12 to 24 hours to begin working
- Babies can become very ill quickly

If you have any questions, please ask your doctor or nurse.

Northwestern Medicine – Health Information Resources

For more information, contact Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Alberto Culver Health Learning Center (HLC) at hlc@nm.org, or by calling 312.926.5465. Health information professionals can help you find the information you need and provide you with personal support at no charge.

For more information about Northwestern Medicine, please visit our website at nm.org.

Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar al Departamento de Representantes para Pacientes al 312.926.3112.

The entities that come together as Northwestern Medicine are committed to representing the communities we serve, fostering a culture of inclusion, delivering culturally competent care, providing access to treatment and programs in a nondiscriminatory manner and eliminating healthcare disparities. For questions, please call either Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Patient Representatives Department at 312.926.3112, TDD/TTY 312.926.6363 or the Northwestern Medical Group Patient Representatives Department at 312.695.1100, TDD/TTY 312.926.6363.

Developed by: NMH Postpartum Nursing