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.

**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 degrees 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 100º 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.

Health Information Resources

For more information, visit one of Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Health Learning Centers. These state-of-the-art health libraries are located on the 3rd floor of the Galter Pavilion and on the 1st floor of the Prentice Women’s Hospital. Health information professionals are available to help you find the information you need and provide you with personalized support at no charge. You may contact the Health Learning Centers by calling 312-926-LINK (5465) or by sending an e-mail to hlc@nmh.org.

For additional information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit our Web site at www.nmh.org.