

# **PATIENT INFORMATION**

## **Neonatal Infection**





Your baby needs to be observed as he/she may be at risk of or may have an infection.

In order to check for the possibility of infection your baby will be examined by the Doctor or Nurse Practitioner and have some bloods taken known as a septic screen.

When the bloods are taken, a cannula will be inserted so that intravenous antibiotics can be given. It is safer for us to give the antibiotics before the results of the blood tests are known, rather than wait because we know that babies with an infection can deteriorate very quickly without treatment. If one of the blood tests called a CRP is raised either after the first or second blood test we may also need to perform a lumbar puncture (this is where we take a sample of fluid from the spine, to look for infection). All samples are sent to the laboratory and the results are usually known within 36-48 hours.

If the tests show no evidence of infection, and the baby is well the antibiotics can be stopped after 36-48 hours. If the tests are positive for infection or if there is a strong suspicion of infection, then the baby may need antibiotics for a minimum of 7 days. Please note the initial plan for your baby may change as the results of the tests become available to us.

The midwives/neonatal staff will monitor and observe your baby on the ward and will check the baby's heart rate, breathing, temperature and saturation levels (amount of oxygen in their blood) at regular intervals.

The first dose of antibiotics will be given when the septic screen is performed. If you are on Maternity Ward with your baby, a Neonatal Nurse will come and administer the antibiotics every 12 hours. A heel prick blood test will be taken to monitor the CRP and antibiotic levels. Occasionally your baby may need closer observation so may be admitted to the NNU.

You will be worried, but you can be reassured that your baby will be observed carefully.

The Doctors and nurses and midwives will explain about the infection and what treatment and care is needed. Once you have listened to the information, feel free to discuss your baby's care and treatment with us at any time.

We will only discharge your baby home once we believe he/she is well and any infection has been treated appropriately. However, once home, if your baby starts to show any of the following;

- abnormal behaviour (such as inconsolable crying or listlessness)
- is unusually floppy
- has difficulty in feeding or tolerating feeds
- has a temperature below 36°C or above 38°C unexplained by environmental factors
- has rapid breathing or a change in skin colour,

you should seek medical advice either from your GP, by phoning 111 – NHS non-emergency medical help or by taking your baby to an A&E department or walk in centre.

If your baby has had Group B Streptococcal infection then in future pregnancies you should advise your midwives on booking so that plans can be put in place prior to the delivery of your next baby.

Further information, advice, support and contact details about specific types of infection can be found below.

**Group B Strep:**

Group B Strep Support, P O Box 203, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1GF

Tel: 01444 416 176

Email: [info@gbss.org.uk](mailto:info@gbss.org.uk)

**Meningitis:**

Meningitis UK, Link House, Britton Gardens, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1TF

Tel: 0117 947 6320

Email: [information@meningitisUK.org](mailto:information@meningitisUK.org)

**Bliss for General Help and Support:**

Bliss head office, 9 Holyrood Street,

London SE1 2EL

Tel : 020 7378 1122

Email : [ask@bliss.org.uk](mailto:ask@bliss.org.uk)    [www.bliss.org.uk](http://www.bliss.org.uk)

**During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have questions or concerns.**

## **MATRON**

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

## **INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST**

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION**

- Your own GP

### **OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:**

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) – 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) – 0800 328 6297

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need  
this leaflet in an alternative format**

**Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust**

Ormskirk & District General Hospital  
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AZ  
Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital  
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN  
Tel: (01704) 547471

**FOR APPOINTMENTS**

Telephone (01695) 656680  
Email [soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net](mailto:soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net)

Please remember to complete the **attached Friends and Family Test**.  
Alternatively, you can complete the *Friends and Family Test* on-line by going to: [southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT](http://southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT)  
**Thank you**

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