

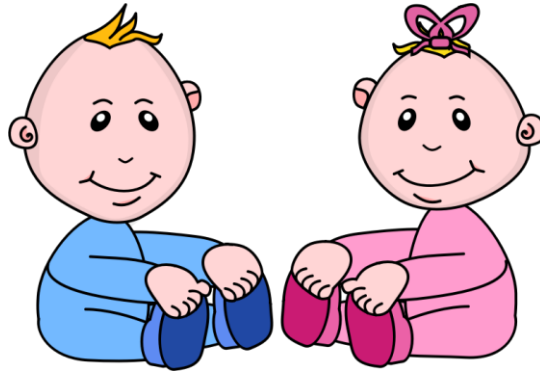
My baby is on IV antibiotics

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats on request.

*如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供*

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatkach.

Author: Midwife
Department: Maternity
Document Number: STHK0990
Version: 1
Review date: 08/10/2021



This information leaflet will give you a brief outline of why babies need antibiotics. If you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Why is my baby on antibiotics?

Babies are often on antibiotics due to suspected infection. This can be due to a number of reasons including respiratory problems, mum's infection status or length of time which your waters have been broken. Clinical signs and symptoms may also be taken into account.

How long will my baby be on antibiotics?

It depends on the results we receive. The shortest time is 36 hours – at 36 hours the doctor will review the bloods taken and decide if a further course is required. The maximum dose is 7 days. This will be discussed during the process and you will be kept up to date.

What tests are done?

Initially the doctor will take blood tests including blood cultures. A blood test called a Full Blood Count (FBC) can signal infection and other markers in the blood called CRP can also indicate infection if this is high. We will explain your baby's results to you.

Blood cultures are required to be incubated to see if any bugs grow in them – the results take 36 hours to process. FBC and CRP results can be read within a few hours.

A chest x-ray may be done if we suspect a chest infection.

A further CRP will be done after the first 24 hours on antibiotics to check if the level is rising. If CRP is above 10, a lumbar puncture will be done – this is taking a sample of fluid from your baby's back. This test results will also take 36 hours.

How is the medication given?

There will be a cannula inserted into your baby's vein so that the antibiotics can be given into the bloodstream – this is the best way to give antibiotics. The vein may be in the hand, the foot or the arm.


Where will the baby need to be during this time?

You should be able to have your baby with you on the postnatal ward. However if any levels are indicating infection which needs further treatment they may need to go to Special Care Baby Unit. You can stay on the postnatal unit with your baby for 7 days if required.

This information is for generalised newborn infection. Other infections may require different treatment. This will be explained to you by your midwife, doctor or nurse.

Please ask a member of staff if you need any further information.





Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

 /sthknhs  @sthk.nhs
www.sthk.nhs.uk