

## **Screening for hepatitis B, HIV and syphilis**

An **easy guide** to screening tests when you are pregnant

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### **Your choice**

This booklet has information about a test you can have. The test can find out if you or your baby may have a serious infection.

An infection is a condition you can catch from someone else that can spread. Sometimes you can pass an infection on to your baby. The test can find problems with your baby before he or she is born. The test may not find every problem. If we find a problem early we can give you information or tell you about treatment for you or your baby.

You can choose if you want to have the test. If you say no to the test we will ask you again later on in your pregnancy in case you change your mind. You can ask for another test later on in your pregnancy if you think you have caught one of the infections.

If you have the test we will know what care you and your baby may need. If you are worried, you can talk to your midwife or doctor.

## **About the test**

We only show the results of the tests to health staff who need to see them.

It is important to tell your midwife about any health problems you have. If you know you have HIV or hepatitis B, please tell us. We can make sure you get the care you need.

The test takes a small bit of your blood to find out if you have hepatitis B, HIV or syphilis.

## **Hepatitis B**

You can catch hepatitis B from having sex, from infected needles and from someone else's body fluids. Body fluids are things like wee, poo, sick, blood, semen and vaginal fluids.

If you have hepatitis B you can give it to your baby.

Hepatitis B affects your liver and you will see a specialist. It can make you very ill.

If you have hepatitis B, your baby will need vaccinations after he or she is born. Vaccinations are also called jabs or injections. They will protect your baby from getting hepatitis B.

If you have hepatitis B your baby will need vaccinations:

- before they are one day old
- when they are 4 weeks old
- when they are 8 weeks old
- when they are 12 weeks old
- when they are 16 weeks old, and
- when they are 1 year old.

It is really important that your baby has all of the vaccinations.

Some babies need extra protection before they are 1 day old. We give these babies another injection to protect them. This helps fight the disease.

## **HIV**

You can catch HIV from having sex, from infected needles and from someone else's body fluids.

If you have HIV you can give it to your baby.

Having HIV means you can easily catch other serious illnesses. You have HIV for life. If you have HIV you can have medicine when you are pregnant. The medicine will make sure there is only a very small chance that your baby will catch HIV from you.

If you have HIV we recommend that you do not breastfeed.

## **Syphilis**

You can catch syphilis from having sex.

If you have syphilis you can give it to your baby.

If you have syphilis your baby can have serious health problems. If you have syphilis you will see a specialist. The specialist will give you antibiotic tablets. Your partner may need to be tested as well.

When your baby is born, they may need to be examined. They may also need blood tests and antibiotics.

## **Test results**

A midwife will contact you if the test results show you have any of these infections.

It is important to tell your midwife if you move home.

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