

Hospital care of your baby

Dear Expectant Parent(s):

Attendance of your baby's birth by the level II team

Mount Auburn Hospital is staffed 24 hours a day by a team of pediatricians/neonatologists who have expertise in the care of newborns. Your obstetric provider may call this level II team (pediatrician/neonatologist, level II nurse, respiratory therapist) to your delivery. The most common reasons are meconium (name of fetal stool) staining of the amniotic fluid, a fetal heart tracing suggesting the baby is stressed or maternal medications which may affect the transition of the newborn from the in-utero to a post-natal state. Although these are common reasons, your OB provider may call for the delivery room team to attend your baby's birth for ANY reason.

Evaluation, screening and treatment of your newborn shortly after delivery

After an uncomplicated delivery, the baby will be examined at approximately one hour of age by the nursery nurse who will contact the pediatrician if she has any concerns.

Screening your baby for low blood sugars (hypoglycemia)

Well appearing newborns who are born premature (less than 37 weeks), or small/large for their gestational age or whose mothers have diabetes, will be screened per our protocol starting at 1 hour of age. All infants who have symptoms of hypoglycemia or are admitted to the level II nursery will be immediately screened for a possible low blood sugar level. If the blood level is below a certain level, the baby will receive glucose gel immediately and the nurse will contact the doctor for their recommendations. Recognizing that we all (babies and adults alike) need to be fed if we have a low blood sugar, the recommendation may be made that the baby be supplemented with formula after breastfeeding (if that is your choice) until your milk is in. The recommendation to supplement will depend on how low the blood glucose level is as severe and persistent hypoglycemia is associated with injury to the baby's brain.

Protecting your baby from an eye infection called ophthalmia neonatorum

During the baby's initial assessment at about 1 hour of age, an antibiotic ointment will be applied to both eyes to protect them from an infection caused by bacteria found in the vaginal canal: chlamydia or gonorrhea. It is important to remember that even if you test negative early in pregnancy, that you might contract the infection between that time and delivery of baby. This treatment is a simple and safe way to protect your baby's vision. Please see these links for additional information:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/conjunctivitis/newborns.html#causes>.
- <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/prenatal/delivery-beyond/Pages/Erythromycin-Ointment.aspx>

Hospital care of your baby continued

Protecting your baby from bleeding

In addition, your newborn will receive an injection of Vitamin K to prevent a condition called Vitamin K Deficiency Bleeding (or VKDB). Vitamin K is a substance that our body needs to form clots and to stop bleeding. Although adults get Vitamin K from the foods we eat, babies are born with a deficiency which can lead to serious and potentially life-threatening bleeding problems if Vitamin K is not supplemented within the first 6 hours of life. Please see these links for additional information:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/vitamink/facts.html>
- <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/prenatal/delivery-beyond/Pages/Where-We-Stand-Administration-of-Vitamin-K.aspx>

Protecting your baby from infection with Hepatitis B virus

Most adults in the USA are immune to hepatitis B because we were immunized in the past. Nonetheless, according to the CDC more than a 1000 babies a year contract Hepatitis B from their mothers. If mothers are found to be infected with the virus, their babies will be treated shortly after delivery with two injections to prevent transmission. If mothers are immune, their babies should receive the Hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth since this will virtually eliminate transmission from mother to baby. Please see these links for additional information:


- <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/vaccchildren.htm>
- <https://shar.es/amdIGH>

We hope this information helps to describe the care we provide in keeping your baby healthy and safe while at Mount Auburn Hospital.


Please feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below, if you have any further questions. If you would like to meet with us before your baby is born to discuss any specific concerns, ask your OB provider to make contact with us.

We look forward to caring for you and your baby at Mount Auburn Hospital.

Sincerely,



Janet S. Lloyd, MD, MPH, FAAP
Chair, Department of Pediatrics



Nicole Grady, MD, FAAP
Director, Newborn Medicine