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Birth Center and Home Births – Information for Parents

Notification of infant's birth

Please contact our office as soon as the baby is born. We must see your baby by the next business day after birth. If the office is closed and there are no complications, leave a message on the office voicemail (call our main number and press #0) with the child's name and specify that it was a home birth and the date and time of birth. If there is a concern, follow the prompts to leave a message for the MD on call. Please note that most often newborns require a second visit a few days later to recheck baby's weight and to check for jaundice.

Vitamin K

We recommend Vitamin K for newborn infants to facilitate clotting. Without Vitamin K some babies will have catastrophic bleeding, which can lead to permanent brain damage and even death. The preferred method for a newborn to receive vitamin K is as a one-time injection into the child's thigh. If your child did not receive the Vitamin K shot at birth, we can administer it in our office. Our pediatricians and the American Academy of Pediatrics believe that the oral administration is a far less acceptable alternative, and we do not provide oral vitamin K in the office. **Please be aware that it is our office policy to not accept newborns who have not received the injected vitamin K.** We would be happy to discuss this with you.

Antibiotic Eye ointment

Eye ointment should be administered by the midwife right after the birth at home to prevent infections that can result in blindness.

Newborn Screen ("PKU") Test

At your first visit, your Pediatrician will give you an order for a Newborn Screening Test to be done at the back up hospital. The PKU test should not be run in the first 12 hours of life. The baby needs to eat a couple of times before the test is run. Glendale Adventist West Tower Laboratory can do Newborn screen with a written order by an M.D. Some midwives will perform this test at home.

Hearing Screen

If your midwife does not arrange for a newborn hearing screen, we can give you a prescription to have it done. The hearing screen may be performed at any facility that is under contract with your health insurance. Glendale Adventist's Audiology Department does hearing screens for newborns.

Birth Certificate

To obtain a birth certificate for your child you will need a letter on the pediatrician's letterhead with a handwritten signature and the following information:

- Date the child was born
- Date you examined infant
- Baby's health conditions
- Baby's weight at the time of visit
- Child's complete name and address

Please request this letter as you leave your first visit and make arrangements to pick up the letter when it is complete. Please note that there is a \$25 for completion of this letter. Thank you.