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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 the baby's weight and to check for jaundice.

Vitamin K

We recommend Vitamin K for newborn infants to prevent hemorrhagic disease of the newborn. Vitamin K is a key clotting factor in our bodies, and newborn babies are naturally deficient. Unfortunately, some babies who do not receive vitamin K will have catastrophic internal bleeding, which can lead to permanent brain damage and even death. Thankfully, the injectable version of vitamin K is extremely effective at preventing this.

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 thus 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

Erythromycin eye ointment should be administered by the midwife right after the birth at home to prevent infections (chlamydia and/or gonorrhea) that can result in blindness.

Newborn Screen ("PKU") Test

At your first visit, your pediatrician will give you an order for a California Newborn Screen to be done at the lab. Some midwives will perform this test at your home. This test should be done after the first 12 hours of life, because the baby needs to eat a couple of times before the results are valid. This is a wonderful tool to rule out multiple conditions before they have a chance to develop damage or symptoms. The results will be sent to the pediatrician of record.

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. We can provide you with a list of audiologists in the area.

Birth Certificate

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

- The name and birthdate of your baby
- The date that the baby was first examined
- Baby's health conditions
- Baby's weight at the time of visit
- Baby's complete name and address

Please note that there is a \$30 charge for completion of this letter. Thank you.