

Neonatal infection

Information for the public

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About this information

NICE quality standards help to improve key areas of health or social care so that people are offered the best care available.

This information explains the care and support described in NICE quality standard 75 on antibiotics for neonatal infection.

Antibiotics for neonatal infection

The quality standard for antibiotics for neonatal infection is made up of 5 statements that describe high-quality care for newborn babies who have or may develop an infection. These statements set out the quality of care they should receive.

1. Pregnant women who had a previous baby with an infection called group B *Streptococcus*, or whose tests during this pregnancy show group B *Streptococcus* bacteria in their bodies, are offered antibiotics and given the first dose as soon as possible after their labour has started.
2. Mothers and their newborn babies have an assessment to check whether the baby is at risk of infection.
3. Newborn babies less than 72 hours old who need antibiotic treatment for an infection receive it within 1 hour.

4. Newborn babies being given antibiotic treatment for an infection have their treatment checked after 36 hours to see whether they need to continue it.

5. Parents or carers of newborn babies who may be at risk of developing an infection have a healthcare professional discuss this with them and give them written information about infection in newborn babies before they leave hospital. The information should include how to check whether the baby might have an infection and who to contact if they are concerned.

Your care

Your health and social care team should explain any treatment, care or support you or your baby should be offered so that you can decide together what is best for you and your baby.

We also have more information on the NICE website about [using health and social care services](#).

More information on antibiotics for neonatal infection

NICE has also produced guidance (advice) on [antibiotics for early-onset neonatal infection](#). The guidance was used to develop this quality standard.

Sources of advice and support for parents and carers of newborn babies who have or are at risk of having an infection

- Bliss, 0500 618140, www.bliss.org.uk
- Group B Strep Support, 01444 416176, www.gbss.org.uk
- Meningitis Now, 0808 8010388, www.meningitisnow.org
- National Childbirth Trust (NCT), 0300 330 0700, www.nct.org.uk

You can also go to [NHS Choices](#) for more information about health and social care.

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

A number of organisations who share NICE's commitment to improving quality in this area formally support this quality standard. They may also be able to provide advice and support. For a list of these organisations see the [antibiotics for neonatal infection quality standard](#) on the NICE website.

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Accreditation

