

28 July 2014

Mr Andrew Howlett  
Assistant Clerk  
Public Petition Committee  
The Scottish Parliament

Dear Mr Howlett

**CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC PETITION PE1505**

Further to your letter of the 23 June 2014, I can confirm that NHS Health Scotland worked with the Scottish Government's Child and Maternal Health Division, the Senior Medical Officer for Maternal and Women's Health, Senior Medical Officer for Children and Young People along with the petitioners to agree the text attached for *Ready Steady Baby!*. The amended text will be incorporated into the reprint of *Ready Steady Baby!* that is scheduled for 4 September 2014.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

**Gerald McLaughlin**  
Chief Executive



## **Text for *Ready Steady Baby!* reprint 2014**

### **Group B Streptococcus (GBS)**

This is one of many bacteria that can be present in our bodies. It usually causes no harm. GBS is commonly found in the digestive system and the female reproductive system. It's estimated that about one in four pregnant women in the UK carry GBS. Most pregnant women who carry GBS bacteria go on to have healthy babies. Extremely rarely, GBS infection during pregnancy can also cause miscarriage, early (premature) labour or stillbirth. Around the time of labour and birth, some babies may come into contact with GBS and there's a small risk that GBS may cause infection in the baby around childbirth. Rarely, GBS infection in newborn babies can cause serious complications that can be life-threatening.

If a baby develops GBS infection less than seven days after birth, it's known as early-onset GBS infection. Most babies who become infected develop symptoms within 12 hours of birth. Please follow this link if you would like more information - <http://www.rcog.org.uk/womens-health/clinical-guidance/group-b-streptococcus-gbs-infection-newborn-babies-information-you>

### **What are the symptoms and signs of GBS infection in my baby?**

Most babies who are infected with GBS show symptoms within 12 hours of birth. If your baby is considered at increased risk of GBS infection, he or she will be monitored for signs of infection immediately after birth and before discharge. This will include assessing your baby's general wellbeing, feeding, temperature, heart rate and breathing rate.

Babies with GBS infection may be very sleepy, be floppy and not feed well. If you are worried about your baby contact NHS 24 or your health visitor or GP. If you cannot contact any health professionals within 4 hours then access Emergency Departments.

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#### Notes:

- the first paragraph was inserted in page 49 and the rest replaced the existing strep B info that was on page 115.)