

**PE1505/I**

9 December 2014

Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Public Petitions Committee,

**CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC PETITION PE1505**

I write to inform you that further to our previous correspondence of 28 July 2014, the text included in the *Ready Steady Baby!* reprint has been amended. I have included and highlighted the amended text below.

Can you please inform Petitioner of this amendment?

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

Yours sincerely

Gerry McLaughlin  
Chief Executive  
NHS Health Scotland



## 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.