

Caring for babies born to mothers with thyroid problems

Who is this leaflet for?

If you have a thyroid problem your baby may need some extra blood tests, and in the case of overactive thyroids, your baby may need additional observations. This leaflet explains how we will manage the care of your baby.

Maternal hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid)

If you take thyroxine (and have never been on any other thyroid medications) for an underactive thyroid gland, your baby will have a routine Day 5 Neonatal Screening Blood Test (in hospital or at home) and will not require any further tests or review.

Maternal hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid)

If you have ever had a history of hyperthyroidism, and / or required surgery / medication to help correct an overactive thyroid, we would recommend a hospital delivery and a post natal review of your baby.

What will the review involve?

Some babies will be reviewed daily by a paediatrician until they are 24-48 hours old. Other babies will only require blood tests and a physical examination by a paediatrician when they are 5-7 days old and again when they are 10-14 days old. Arrangements will be made for these appointments prior to your discharge from hospital.

What should I look out for?

The signs of an overactive thyroid in your baby include: poor feeding, panting for breath, excessive wakefulness, sweating, loose stools and weight loss.

Continued overleaf...

During normal working hours if you are concerned about these signs in a baby at risk of an overactive thyroid please phone Dr Kumar's secretary on 01872 255081.

If you are at all concerned about your baby at other times **please** contact your GP as a matter of urgency, and your baby can be referred into hospital if needed.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690