

Your Babies Hips Information Leaflet

Why is my baby being referred?

All babies have their hips examined as part of the newborn examination. This is done so that babies who have a suspected problem with their hips can be referred as early as possible to a specialist (called an Orthopaedic Surgeon).

The purpose of this leaflet is to give you some information about why your baby has been referred to the Baby Hip Clinic at Alder Hey Hospital.

When the Paediatrician or midwife examined your baby they found that he/she may have a problem with his/her hips which needs to be checked out by a specialist. This will be done at Baby Hip Clinic at Alder Hey Hospital.

Some babies are born with hips that are found to be abnormal in some way during examination. This is sometimes called a 'clicky hip'. Other babies are at risk of hip problems because they were born breech or because someone in their family has had hip problems during childhood. It is very important that we know about such babies because any problems they may have need to be properly diagnosed and treated in the first few weeks after birth. However, only a small number of babies who are referred will actually be found to have a problem.

How will you arrange for my baby to be seen in Baby Hip Clinic?

We will make a referral to the Orthopaedic team at Alder Hey Hospital and you will receive a letter from them soon. You will then be asked to ring Alder Hey Hospital to make an appointment for your baby to be seen at Baby Hip Clinic. Please remember to ring as soon as possible after receiving the letter so that there is no delay in your baby getting an appointment to be seen.

What will happen when my baby is seen in Baby Hip Clinic?

Your baby will be examined again by a specialist who will also arrange an ultrasound scan of your baby's hips. The ultrasound scan is similar to the scans which are done during pregnancy – it is quick and painless and does not upset the baby. You will be told about the results of the examination and scan during your visit to Alder Hey Hospital.

Where can I find more information?

This leaflet gives some basic information about hip problems in newborn babies. Your midwife or Paediatrician will be able to answer any general questions you may have about your baby's hips and the reasons for referral to the baby Hip Clinic.

If you have any questions after you and your baby have been discharged from Liverpool Women's Hospital, please ring us on 0151 702 4093. Your Midwife or Health Visitor may also be able to give you further information after discharge.

This leaflet can be made available in difference formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at Pals@lwh.nhs.uk

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