Information about Required medications given after birth to babies

NYS DOH health Law

Effective Date: 07/19/2000
Title: Section 12.3 - Precautions to be observed for the prevention of hemorrhagic diseases and coagulation disorders of the newborn and infants related to vitamin K deficiency

12.3 Precautions to be observed for the prevention of hemorrhagic diseases and coagulation disorders of the newborn and infants related to vitamin K deficiency. It shall be the duty of the attending physician, licensed midwife, registered professional nurse or other licensed medical professional attending the newborn to assure administration of a single parenteral dose of 0.5-1.0 mg. of natural vitamin K(1) oxide (phytonadione) within one hour of birth.

Effective Date: 07/19/2000
Title: Section 12.2 - Precautions to be observed for the prevention of purulent conjunctivitis of the newborn

12.2 Precautions to be observed for the prevention of purulent conjunctivitis of the newborn. It shall be the duty of the attending physician, licensed midwife, licensed nurse or other authorized provider in attendance at a delivery to place into the eyes of the infant, on delivery, an agent effective for preventing purulent conjunctivitis of the newborn, such as tetracycline or erythromycin eye preparation or a one percent solution of nitrate of silver.
Early care of the newborn includes routine medication administration and a thorough physical examination of the baby for any abnormalities or medical conditions requiring special care by nursing staff as well as your baby's provider.

Some routine procedures and evaluations are completed after birth in the delivery room to prevent serious disorders while others are performed once the baby reaches the mother baby unit with the parents. Certain procedures are mandated by the state with a set time frame which must be adhered to. The procedures might include:

- **Prophylactic eye care**
- **Vitamin K administration**
- **Hepatitis B vaccination**
- **Umbilical cord care**
- **Monitoring of blood sugars or for “yellow jaundice”**

### Prophylactic eye care

In the newborn, the risk of contracting an eye infection which could result in blindness is dramatically decreased with the use of eye antibiotics. In the United States, the use of eye antibiotics is **mandatory** for all newborns. Erythromycin ointment is the only approved agent and is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Eye prophylaxis in NYS must be performed by the 1st hour after birth. Once placed on the lower eyelid and massaged in the excess may be wiped off.

### Umbilical cord care

Care of the umbilical cord includes only keeping the cord dry and watching for any signs of infection.

### Vitamin K Injection

Prophylactic Vitamin K is administered to all babies after birth to prevent bleeding diseases. Babies who have not received Vitamin K at birth have had severe irreversible outcomes including bleeding in the brain, bleeding in the intestine uncontrolled bleeding and possible death.

This is a single injection in the thigh of the newborn and is administered in the labor and delivery area. Vitamin K is **Mandatory** and NYS regulates that this is administered within 6 hours of birth. Within the CHS, Vitamin K is routinely given before the mother and baby are transferred to the Mother baby floor.

Countries outside of the United States have given Oral Vitamin K however there is no oral form of Vitamin K for newborn prophylaxis available in the USA.

### Hepatitis B vaccine

Hepatitis B vaccine is given usually as soon after birth but within 6 hours for the best immune response. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend babies getting this additional dose in the hospital after birth to prevent transmission and protect from possible exposure to someone with Hepatitis B.