

Chorio Nursery Information for Parents

What is chorio?

“Chorio” (chorioamnionitis) is an infection of the fluid filled sac that surrounds an unborn baby in the mother’s womb (uterus). Chorio can be diagnosed before or after delivery.

Signs of this infection include:

- Fever (mother)
- High heart rate in mother or baby
- Tender uterus
- Foul-smelling amniotic fluid

Fever during labor may not always mean there is an infection in mother or baby. But, we must evaluate your baby for infection in the Prentice Women’s Hospital Chorio Nursery on the 12th floor. There, babies are seen by specially trained pediatricians from Lurie Children’s Hospital (Chorio Service).

Does my baby have an infection?

Most babies born to mothers with chorio do not develop an infection. But since newborns have a limited ability to fight a potential infection, all babies born to mothers with chorio must be closely checked for infection and started on antibiotics shortly after birth to prevent any problems.

What happens in the Chorio Nursery?

If your baby looks healthy at birth, they will stay with you for 1 hour after delivery. You can breastfeed and hold your baby during this time. At 1 hour of life, a nurse will transfer your baby to the Chorio Nursery. Your postpartum room will be located on the same floor.

In the Chorio Nursery, a nurse will monitor your baby’s vital signs (heart rate, breathing, oxygen levels) for 4 hours. The nurse will place an IV and draw blood cultures to test for infection. Blood will be drawn for lab tests at 6 hours of life. Your baby will receive antibiotics for 24 to 48 hours.

If signs and symptoms of infection arise or if the blood culture grows bacteria, your baby may need to be transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) on the 10th floor of Prentice Women’s Hospital. Symptoms may include trouble breathing, low oxygen levels, low blood sugars, low temperature or any other changes noted by the care team.

Timeline for your baby

First hour of life

Skin to skin with mother
1st breastfeed (as appropriate)

At 1 hour of life

Nurse will take your baby to the Chorio Nursery

Chorio Nursery

Vital signs for 4 hours
IV and blood cultures
Blood sugar checks
Lab tests drawn at 6 hours of life

Antibiotics

24 to 48 hours of treatment with ampicillin every 8 hours and gentamicin every 24 hours

After 6 hours of life

Your baby will join you in your postpartum room

First 24 to 48 hours of life

If your baby looks well, they will return to the Chorio Nursery for vitals every 4 hours and for antibiotics

If your baby is not showing any signs or symptoms of a potential infection after 6 hours of life and remains well, they will join you in your postpartum room for bonding and infant care.

Can I care for my baby in Chorio Nursery?

Parents are welcome to be with their baby in the Chorio Nursery, and are encouraged to breastfeed and participate in infant care. Your bedside nurse is there to support you and to help decide the best time and location for a positive breastfeeding experience. Please let your nurse know if you would like to breastfeed your baby.

Due to limited space, other visitors are not able to enter the Chorio Nursery. They may view the baby through our nursery windows, if accompanied by the baby's parent. Family and guests may visit with your baby when they return to your postpartum room.

What about the pediatrician that I selected for my baby?

If you had a **vaginal delivery** and your baby's test for infection is negative:

- You and your baby will likely go home when your baby is 48 hours old.
- You will meet your pediatrician at your first visit with them in the clinic, 1 to 2 days after discharge.
- Please call your pediatrician to let them know your baby has been born and to schedule that first appointment. We will also fax your pediatrician all of your baby's birth information before you go home.

If you had a **C-section delivery**, your baby's testing for infection may be done before you are ready for discharge.

- In this case, we will transfer your baby's care to the pediatrician you selected.
- If a pediatrician was not chosen or if the pediatrician does not make rounds at Prentice, a pediatrician from Lurie Children's Hospital will care for your baby during the entire hospital stay.

Northwestern Medicine – Health Information Resources

For more information, contact Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Alberto Culver Health Learning Center (HLC) at hlc@nm.org, or by calling 312.926.5465. Health information professionals can help you find the information you need and provide you with personal support at no charge.

For more information about Northwestern Medicine, please visit our website at nm.org.

Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar al Departamento de Representantes para Pacientes al 312.926.3112.

The entities that come together as Northwestern Medicine are committed to representing the communities we serve, fostering a culture of inclusion, delivering culturally competent care, providing access to treatment and programs in a nondiscriminatory manner and eliminating healthcare disparities. For questions, please call either Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Patient Representatives Department at 312.926.3112, TDD/TTY 312.926.6363 or the Northwestern Medical Group Patient Representatives Department at 312.695.1100, TDD/TTY 312.926.6363.

Developed by: Lurie Children's Physicians; Prentice Medical Directors of Newborn Nursery and NICU; Postpartum/NICU Nursing