

# UNDERSTANDING CHORIOAMNIONITIS

## *You and your baby*

### What is chorioamnionitis?

Chorioamnionitis, sometimes referred to as “chorio” or intraamniotic infection, is a bacterial infection of the placenta and the amniotic fluid. It is diagnosed before or shortly after delivery.

Chorio is an infection that is most often caused by bacteria that is found in the vagina that moves to the uterus.

**Chorio is more likely to happen if:**

- ▶ Your bag of water, referred to as the amniotic sac, breaks long before delivery
- ▶ You have a long labor
- ▶ You have a positive group B strep (GBS) screening
- ▶ You have premature labor

### What are the symptoms of chorio?

The symptoms of chorio are different for each person, but often include:

- ▶ Fever
- ▶ Tender uterus
- ▶ Abnormal cervical drainage or discharge
- ▶ Foul-smelling amniotic fluid
- ▶ Fast heart rate in your baby

### How is chorio treated?

Your treatment will depend on your specific situation including symptoms, allergies and medical history.

Antibiotics are often used to treat chorioamnionitis and help prevent complications for you and your baby.

Sometimes, patients are also given acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol®) or other medications to help reduce a fever.

### What are the possible complications of chorio for my baby?

If chorioamnionitis is not treated, it may cause an infection in your baby’s blood, lungs or other organs. However, most babies born to patients with chorio **do not** develop an infection.

All babies born to patients with chorio will be closely monitored by a healthcare team. In some cases, a baby may need blood tests or antibiotics.



**You are your baby’s best advocate,  
and we encourage you to ask questions.**

*Some common questions parents have are:*

- ▶ Will my baby have an infection?
- ▶ What symptoms could my baby show?
- ▶ Does my baby need antibiotics?
- ▶ Can my baby stay in my room with me?