

Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) Vaccination For Babies

Women and Newborn Services Patient Information

What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

TB is an infection that usually affects the lungs. It can also affect other parts of the body such as the brain and the bones. With treatment it is possible to make a full recovery.

The BCG vaccine protects against TB

In the UK, BCG is offered to babies who are more likely than the general population to come into contact with TB. The BCG vaccination is recommended for all babies who:

- are born in areas of the UK where the rates of TB are high
- have a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where there's a high rate of TB
- live with, or are close contacts of, someone with infectious TB

When will your baby be offered the BCG vaccine?

As parents you will be offered the BCG vaccine for your baby following a conclusive Newborn bloodspot result and preferably before 28 days of life but can be given upto one year old.

You will be asked to give written consent (sign a form to give permission) for the vaccine to be given to your baby.

You baby's BCG vaccination will be provided in an outpatient clinic, usually between 2 and 4 weeks of age. Details of the appointment will be sent out in the post.

If you have any questions about the vaccination please discuss these with a midwife.

How is the vaccination given?

The vaccination is given by intradermal injection (an injection into the skin) and is administered by a midwife or a doctor.

Are there any side effects relating to the vaccination?

- Your baby may feel some discomfort which will be relieved by cuddling or feeding your baby.
- After the vaccine a blister or sore may appear at the injection site. If it does appear, it will heal gradually. It is advisable to leave the area uncovered to allow it to heal. It may leave a small scar.

What do I do if I declined BCG for my baby and I change my mind?

If you change your mind and decide that you would like your baby to have the BCG vaccine, please contact the Antenatal and Newborn Screening team on 01274 364295 between the hours of 9.30am and 4.30pm (Monday to Friday) to arrange an appointment.

Please be aware we can only provide this vaccination before your baby has his / her 1st birthday.

People with hearing and speech difficulties

You can contact us using the Relay UK app. Textphone users will need to dial 18001 before the number to be contacted.

Accessible Information

If you need this information in another format or language, please ask a member of staff.

Smoking

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke or use e-cigarettes in any of the hospital buildings or grounds.