CDC changes recommendation for babies born to mothers with *Streptococcus Agalactiae*

In 2002 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised the recommendation for how long babies born to *Streptococcus Agalactiae* (GBS) colonized mothers need to be held in the hospital if babies are not acting ill. It has come to our attention that most practices are not aware of this important change, which, if practiced, results in shorter lengths of stay without compromising the patient’s outcome. The savings will be immense for Wisconsin residents if health care professionals understand the changed recommendation.

Specifically, if you have a patient who is a baby and meets the following criteria, they are appropriate for discharge before 48 hours in the hospital. If they do not meet these criteria, it is still recommended that they remain for the full 48 hours. We feel that the ability to discharge these babies from the hospital in a more timely manner will result in greater parent satisfaction with no compromise of patient outcomes.

**Criteria for discharge from the hospital prior to 48 hours for babies of GBS+ moms**

- Patient is an infant who is ≥38 weeks gestation who is healthy in appearance.
- The baby’s mother received at least 1 dose of intrapartum antibiotics at least 4 hours prior to delivery.
- The baby has remained in the hospital for at least 24 hours and has met all other discharge criteria.
- The parent is fully able to comply with instructions for home observation and will be with the baby at home.
- The person observing the baby is able to communicate with health care professionals by telephone and to transport the child promptly to an appropriate health care facility if clinical signs of sepsis develop.

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**References**

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