



**ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**  
**Department of Nursing Policy (NRS)**  
**Maternal Child Health (MCH) Policies and Procedures**

**Policy No. 5305 Issue 1**  
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**SECTION: PATIENT CARE**

**SUBJECT: SEPSIS: NEONATAL**

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Nurse Manager

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## **POLICY**

Neonates greater than or equal to 35 weeks gestation are assessed for risk factors of neonatal sepsis.

## **PROCEDURE**

**I. Risk factors that may indicate a need for septic screen:**

A. Maternal risk factors may include the following, but are not limited to:

1. Group B Strep (GBS) positive, unknown, or expired (previous GBS testing done more than 35 weeks to presentation of labor), and inadequate intrapartum antibiotic treatment.
  - a. Adequate GBS prophylaxis: Penicillin G, ampicillin, or cefazolin given greater than or equal to four (4) hours prior to delivery
  - b. Inadequate GBS prophylaxis: any antibiotic given less than four (4) hours prior to delivery OR any other antibiotic for any duration (e.g., vancomycin, clindamycin) regardless of sensitivities
2. Maternal fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F during labor and up to 1 hour after delivery.
3. Rupture of membranes greater than or equal to 18 hours
4. Concurrent urinary tract infection (UTI) without treatment
5. Chorioamnionitis
6. No prenatal care
7. Past history of infant with GBS disease

B. Neonates who present the following may require further evaluation

1. Infant 35 0/7 to 36 6/7 weeks gestation
2. Need for resuscitation at birth

**II. Neonatal assessment and reassessment**

- A. First hour for infants with risk factors
- B. Reassess neonate within 1-4 hours as indicated
- C. Practitioner notified of any changes in status

**III. Parents are educated on signs and symptoms of sepsis**

**IV. Documentation**

- A. Document all education and assessment findings in the electronic health record (EHR)
- B. Document potential or actual infection in the plan of care.

REFERENCE: **American Academy of Pediatrics (2019). Management of Infants at Risk for Group B Streptococcal Disease. *Pediatrics*, 144 (2).**

**American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2019). Prevention of Group B Streptococcal Early-Onset Disease in Newborns. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 134 (1).**

**Infection Probability Calculator - Neonatal Sepsis Calculator**  
<https://neonatalsepsiscalculator.kaiserpermanente.org/>

**Pediatric Newborn Medicine Clinical Practice Guidelines. Guideline for Management of Asymptomatic Infant Born at greater than or equal to 35 weeks Gestatiuon at Risk of Early Onset Sepsis: Using the Sepsis Calculator. (2022). *Briugham and Women's Hospital* , 27.**

DEFINITIONS: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

APPROVAL DATE: N/A

6/2/2025

APPROVAL DATE: Sheryl Wooldridge, Clinical Director II

Department/Service Director, Head or Manager

4/10/2025

Department of Pediatrics

Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

8/28/2025

Nursing Standards Committee

Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

9/24/2025

Patient Safety and Quality Committee

Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

10/2/2025

Quality Management Committee

Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

10/23/2025

Medical Executive Committee

Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

1/13/2026

Board of Supervisors

Approved by the Governing Body

REPLACES: **Mother Baby Unit Policy No. 219.01**

EFFECTIVE: **1/1999**

REVISED:

REVIEWED: