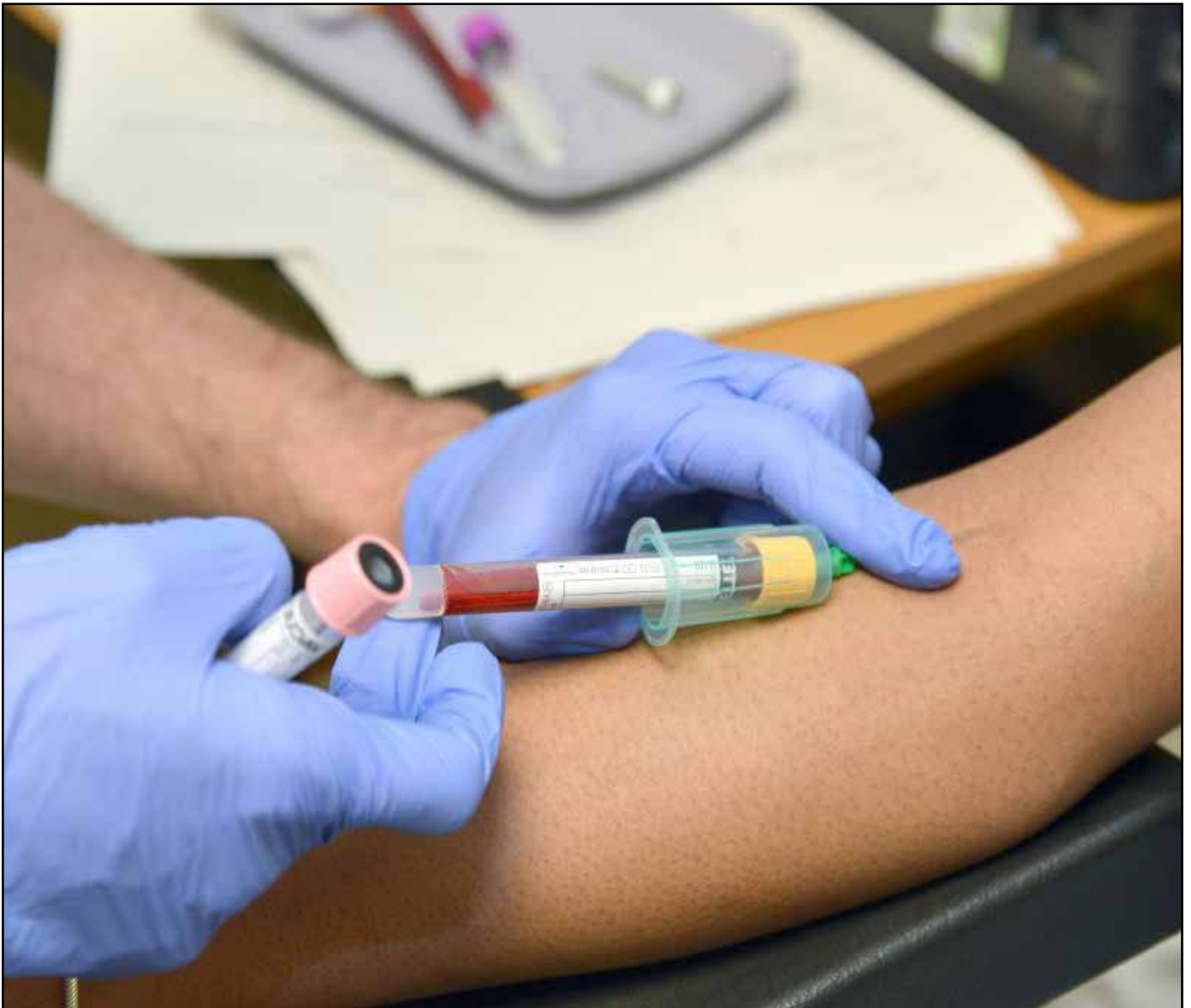


Screening for hepatitis B, HIV and syphilis

An **easy guide** to screening tests when you are pregnant



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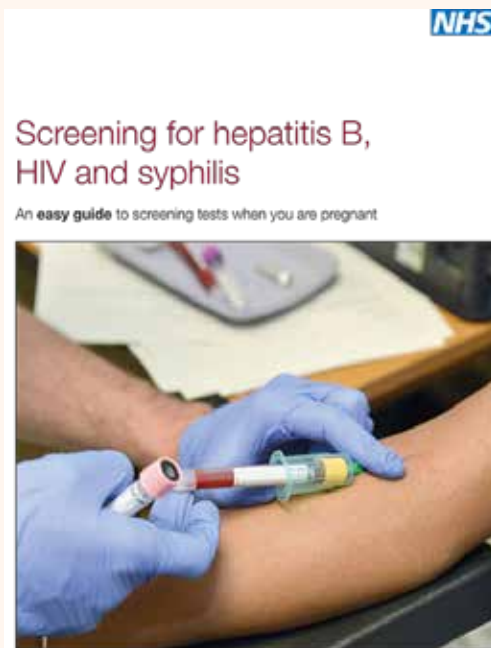
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This booklet has information about a test you can have.

The test can find out if you or your baby may have hepatitis B, HIV or syphilis. These are serious infections.

An infection is a condition you can catch from someone else that can spread. Sometimes you can pass an infection on to your baby.



You can choose if you want to have the test.

If you say no to the test we will ask you again later on in your pregnancy in case you change your mind.

You can ask for another test any time in your pregnancy if you think you have caught one of the infections. Just ask your midwife.



We recommend that you should have the test.

If we find a problem early we will know what care you and your baby may need.

If you are worried, you can talk to your midwife or doctor.

About the test

PRIVATE

We will keep your test results private.

We only show the results of the test to health staff who need to see them.



It is important to tell your midwife or doctor about any health problems you have.

Please tell us if you know you have HIV or hepatitis B, or if the father of your baby has HIV or hepatitis B.

We can make sure you get the care you need.



The test takes a small bit of blood from your arm to find out if you have hepatitis B, HIV or syphilis.

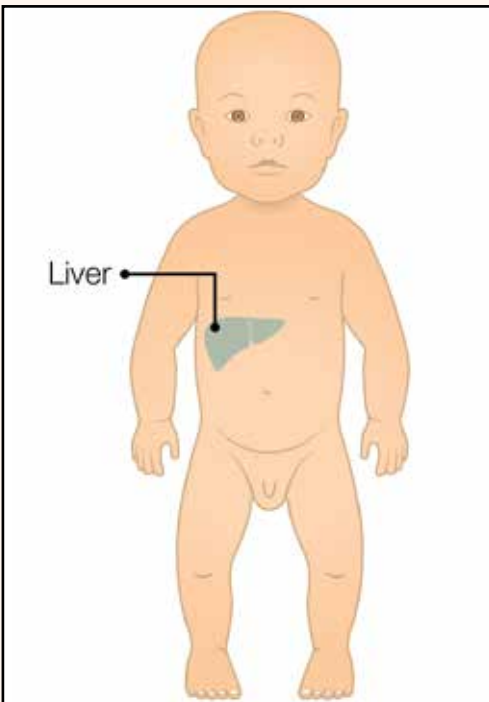


You can catch hepatitis B from having sex. You can use a condom to protect yourself from infection.

You can also catch hepatitis B from infected needles and from someone else's body fluids. Body fluids are things like sick, blood, semen and vaginal fluids.



If you have hepatitis B you can give it to your baby and other people in your family.



Hepatitis B affects the liver, which is inside your body above the tummy.

It can make you very ill.

If you have hepatitis B then your baby will need vaccinations after they are born.



Vaccinations are also called jabs or injections.

They will help to protect your baby from getting hepatitis B.



If you have hepatitis B your baby will need a total of 6 jabs at the right times.



These should take place before your baby is one day old, when they are one month old, 2 months old, 3 months old, 4 months old and 1 year old.

It is very important that your baby has all 6 jabs at the right time.

Some babies need extra protection before they are one day old. We give these babies another jab to protect them. This helps to fight the disease.

When they are one year old they will also have a blood test to check if they have the disease.



You can catch HIV from having sex. You can use a condom to protect yourself from infection.

You can also catch HIV from infected needles and from someone else's body fluids. Body fluids are things like sick, blood, semen and vaginal fluids.



If you have HIV you can give it to your baby when you are pregnant or through breast milk.

Having HIV means you can easily catch other serious illnesses. You have it for life.



If you have HIV you can have medicines when you are pregnant.

The medicines will make sure there is only a very small chance that your baby will catch it from you. They will also stop you feeling ill and can help stop you catching other diseases.

If you have HIV we recommend that you do not breastfeed.



You can catch syphilis from having sex. You can use a condom to protect yourself from infection.

If you have syphilis you can give it to your baby.



If you have syphilis your baby can have serious health problems.



If you have syphilis you will see a special doctor who will give you special medicine.

Your partner will need to be tested as well. When your baby is born, they will need to be checked, have blood tests and have special medicine.



A midwife will contact you if the test results show you have any of these 3 infections.

If we find a problem early we can give you information or extra care and tell you about treatment for you or your baby.



New home

It is important to tell your midwife or health visitor if you move home.

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Find out how Public Health England and the NHS use and protect your screening information at www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data.

Public Health England (PHE) created this leaflet on behalf of the NHS