

The Group B Streptococcus (GBS) Self Swab Test

A guide for patients



Why have I been asked to do a GBS self swab test?

Testing for GBS is not routinely offered to pregnant women in the UK.

If you had GBS in a previous pregnancy and your baby was not affected by GBS, you will be offered a self swab test which will tell you whether you are carrying GBS in this pregnancy. Testing is carried out between 35-37 weeks of pregnancy.

This is because there is a 1 in 2 chance that you will be carrying GBS again in this pregnancy. If this test result is positive, then the chance of your baby developing an infection is 1 in 400 and so you will be offered antibiotics via a drip in labour.

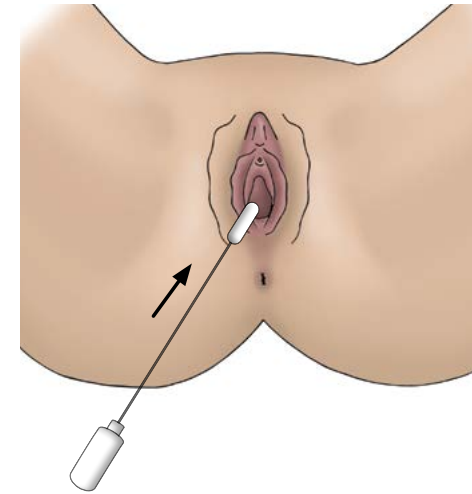
If your swab results show you're not carrying GBS, then the risk of your baby developing a GBS infection is much lower (1 in 5000). Antibiotics would not be offered in labour.

When to perform the GSB self swab test

You will be required to perform the GBS self swab test on the morning of your 36 week antenatal appointment. Please follow the instructions in this leaflet.

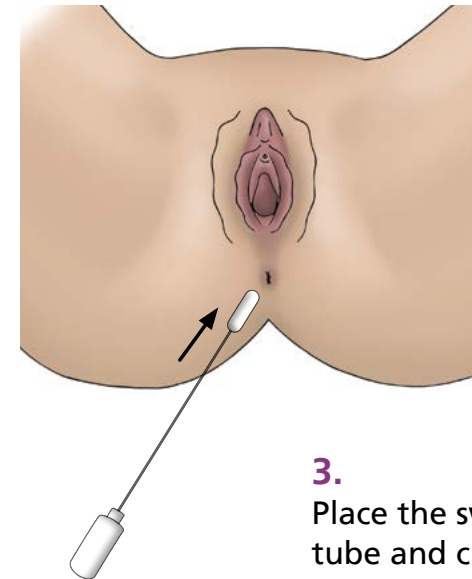
Please remember to hand-in your completed test at your 36 week antenatal appointment.

How to use the self swab



1.

Please wash your hands before you begin. Take the cap off the end of your self swab and insert the cotton end 2cm into the vagina.

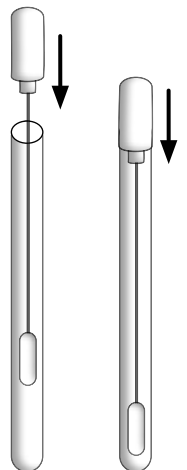


2.

Using the same swab, remove it from the vagina and insert it 1cm into your back passage.

3.

Place the swab back into the tube and click the cap. Once this step is complete you may now re-wash your hands. Place the completed swab in the clear plastic bag provided.





What did you think of your care?

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