



SCAN ME



DEARS
PHARMACY

Pregnant?

You can be looking after your baby even before he or she is born

Have you heard about Group B Streptococcus (also called Group B Strep or GBS)?
- an infection that can be prevented from being passed from mother to baby



Ask the pharmacist for more information on what this means for you and how to test for Group B Strep

£35



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PREGNANCY AND GROUP B STREP

What is Group B Strep?

Group B Streptococcus is a bacterium found in the vagina and bowel of about **one in five women in the UK** — these women are known as carriers. It is not harmful to the woman and is not sexually transmitted. It is also called Group B Strep or GBS.

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Why do I need to know about Group B Strep if I'm pregnant?

Babies may be exposed to Group B Strep around birth when their mothers are carriers. Most babies will be healthy, but in a **small number of cases, it can cause complications** that can be life-threatening to the baby.

How can I find out if I carry Group B Strep?

Group B Strep can be detected by taking swabs from the vagina and rectum and sending them to the laboratory. Group B Strep can come and go so testing usually takes place **after 35 weeks of pregnancy.**

Testing is not routinely available on the NHS. Speak to the pharmacy team for more information about buying a Group B Strep home testing kit.

What happens if I have Group B Strep?

If a test shows you carry Group B Strep you should notify the healthcare professionals caring for you during your pregnancy – such as your midwife or obstetrician (doctor). You should be offered antibiotics once labour starts.



Ask the pharmacist for more information on how you can test for Group B Strep