

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1505  
QUESTIONS / ISSUES ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015**

Scottish Government—

- What timeframe has been set for completing the redrafting of the *Ready Steady Baby!* booklet?
- Which NHS maternity units in Scotland regularly use the ECM test to detect group B Strep carriage in pregnant women?
- Which laboratories used by NHS trusts in Scotland offer the ECM test?
- How many ECM tests have been undertaken by each of 1) and 2) above for each of the last 5 years?
- In what situations are women offered testing for group B Strep carriage? Please describe the specific scenarios.
- Exactly what harms to the Mum and her baby are meant in the statement 'screening for group B Streptococcus in both the NHS and in private practice is unnecessary and potentially harmful in terms of intervention?' And what quantitative and qualitative assessments have been made between such 'harms' and the harms caused by preventable group B Strep infections in newborn babies?

**TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2015**

Scottish Government—

- Will the Scottish Government clarify what tests are used in Scotland to detect group B Strep carriage and in what circumstances they are used?
- Will the Scottish Government ensure that information is routinely given to all expectant mothers in Scotland on group B Streptococcus and on how they can undertake testing privately if that is their choice?
- Will the Scottish Government undertake an independent review of its policy on the screening of all expectant mothers for group B Streptococcus in the light of the fact that Scotland has a higher rate of early-onset group B Strep infection than the rest of the UK?
- What is the current policy in Scotland where an expectant mother requests testing or screening for group B Streptococcus from the NHS? If a test is offered, which test is used? Please note that the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists' guideline referred

to in the original response makes no recommendation for this situation.

## **TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2014**

Scottish Government—

NHS Health Scotland—

- Please can you confirm that a thorough rewrite of the *Ready Steady Baby!* booklet is planned to start at the end of this year and that, when this takes place, the petitioner will be consulted and given sufficient time to engage in this process in a meaningful way?

## **TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2014**

Scottish Government—

NHS Health Scotland—

- The Committee requests that the petitioner and other stakeholders are consulted as part of the revision of the *Ready Steady Baby!* leaflet to include information on GBS. Will you undertake this request?

## **TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014**

Scottish Government—

- Will the Scottish Government ensure that information is routinely given to all expectant mothers in Scotland on Group B Streptococcus and on how to undertake tests and screening privately?
- Will the Scottish Government review its policy on the screening of all expectant mothers for Group B Streptococcus?
- What is the current policy on instances where an expectant mother requests testing or screening for Group B Streptococcus from the NHS?
- Will the Scottish Government consider making Group B Streptococcus a reportable disease in order to gather accurate data for its incidence in Scotland?

UK National Screening Committee—

- At its meeting on 18 March, the Committee noted the UK National Screening Committee's policy on Group B Streptococcus. What are the potential "harms" from screening for Group B Streptococcus, and what data or evidence is there on the incidence of "harms" resulting from screening for Group B Streptococcus?

American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists—

- What data or evidence has been gathered on the benefits and harms resulting from routine screening of expectant mothers for Group B

Streptococcus since the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists first issued guidelines outlining a routine screening strategy in 1996?