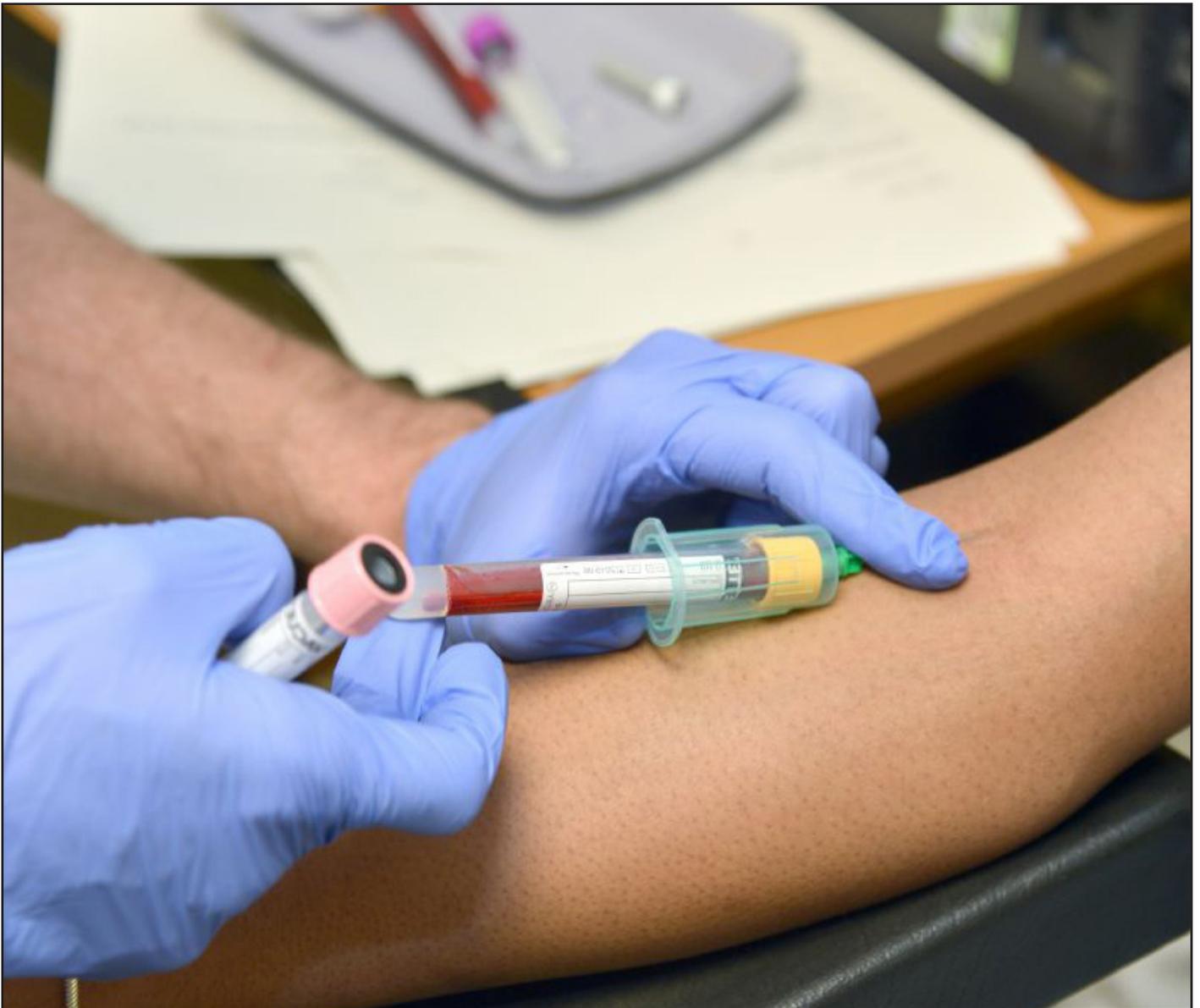




Screening for hepatitis B, HIV and syphilis

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



Contents: what is in this booklet

Page



Your choice

3



About the test

4



Hepatitis B

5



HIV

7



Syphilis

8



Test results

9



Your choice



This booklet has information about a test you can have.

The test can find out if you or the baby may have a serious infection.

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

If we find a problem early we can give you information or tell you about treatment for you or the 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 later on in your pregnancy if you think you have caught one of the infections.



We recommend that you have the test.

Then we will know what care you and the baby may need.

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



About the test



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



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

If you know you have HIV or hepatitis B please tell us.

We can make sure you get the care you need.



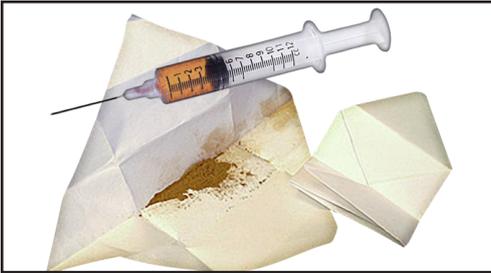
The test takes a small bit of your blood to find out if you have hepatitis B, HIV or syphilis.



Hepatitis B

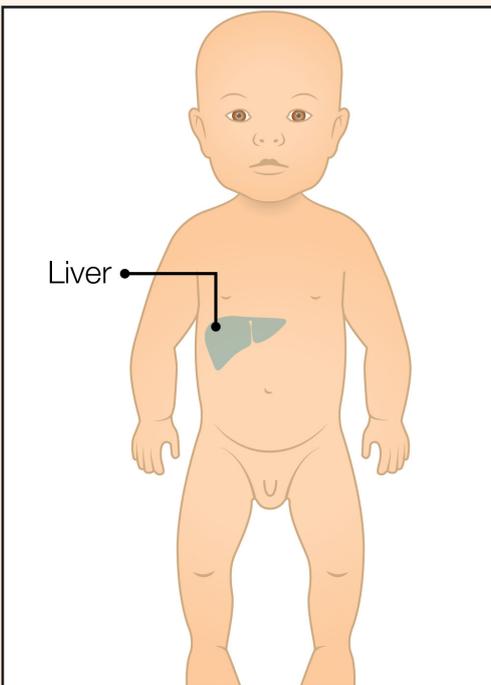


You can catch hepatitis B from having sex, from infected needles and from someone else's body fluids.



Body fluids are things like breast milk, sick, blood, semen and vaginal fluids.

If you have hepatitis B you can give it to the baby.



Hepatitis B affects your liver.

It can make you very ill.

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



Vaccinations are also called jabs or injections.

They will protect the baby from getting hepatitis B.



If you have hepatitis B the baby will need a total of 6 vaccinations.

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

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



It is very important that the baby has all 6 vaccinations.

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



HIV

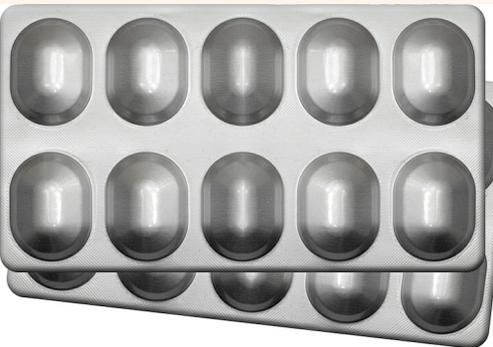


You can catch HIV from having sex, from infected needles and from someone else's body fluids.

If you have HIV you can give it to the baby.



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 the baby will catch it from you.

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



Syphilis



You can catch syphilis from having sex.

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



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



If you have syphilis you will see a specialist. The specialist will give you antibiotic treatment.

Your partner may need to be tested as well. When the baby is born, he or she may need to be examined, have blood tests and antibiotic treatment.



Test results



A health care worker will contact you if the test results show you have any of these infections.



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

First published: February 2017

© Crown copyright 2018

Re-use of Crown copyright material (excluding logos) is allowed under the terms of the Open Government Licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ for terms and conditions.

Images courtesy of:

Photosymbols – drug use (page 7), tables (pages 7 and 8), house move (page 9)

NHS Photo Library (pages 5, 6, 7 and 8)

CHANGE: illustration representing sex (pages 7 and 8)

PHE publications gateway number: 2013432



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 leads the NHS Screening Programmes