

# Information for patients and carers

## Newborn Infant Physical Examination (NIPE) Outcomes

### Hip Referral

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue color, transitioning from a lighter blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom.

## Why are hips checked during the examination (NIPE)?

Some newborns have hip joints that are not formed properly. This is known as developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH). Left untreated, DDH can cause a limp or joint problems. About 1 to 5 in every 1,000 babies have hip problems that need to be treated.

There are several risk factors that would also be assessed during NIPE examination including:

- First-degree family history of hip problems in early life – this includes baby’s parents or siblings who have had a hip problem that started as a baby or young child that needed treatment with a splint, harness or operation
- Breech presentation at or after 36 completed weeks of pregnancy
- A “Hip Referral” will be made if the examination shows that the hip joints are not formed properly and/or there are related risk factors

A ‘screen positive’ hip result is an abnormal clinical hip examination (with or without risk factors) and, or presence of NIPE hip risk factors.

## What happens after a hip referral?

The referral appointment will be passed to the orthopaedic team between 4 and 6 weeks of age (or between 38+0 and 40+0 weeks corrected age for babies born <34+0 weeks gestation). You will be sent the details by post. The appointment will involve an ultrasound which will be reviewed by an orthopaedic specialist or specialist practitioner who will provide feedback on the same day. If you have any concerns, you can discuss them with your midwife or the healthcare professional who does the examination.

[Download a leaflet about screening tests for you and your baby from GOV.UK](#)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60f6a227e90e0764c5938398/Screening tests for you and your baby easy guide NIPE section June 2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60f6a227e90e0764c5938398/Screening_tests_for_you_and_your_baby_easy_guide_NIPE_section_June_2020.pdf)

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please telephone:  
The Antenatal and Newborn Screening Team on **01772 524693**  
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

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