



E-NEWS

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New GBS App

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released a new GBS guidelines app available for iPhone and Androids called "Prevent Group B Strep". The app was developed in collaboration with and endorsed by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ([ACOG](#)), American Academy of Pediatrics ([AAP](#)), American College of Nurse-Midwives ([ACNM](#)), and American Academy of Family Physicians ([AAFP](#)).

The app asks a series of questions from the healthcare provider and provides updated recommended guidelines for patient care based on the information entered into the app. Many hospitals are revising policies and protocols to reflect the 2010 updated GBS guidelines.

The app includes tools for neonatal and obstetrical providers as well as recommended antibiotic regimen and alternative antibiotic regimens for patients with drug allergies.

All healthcare providers will benefit from the release of this new app. Visit [this website](#) for more information on the updated GBS guidelines and free app.

Dina Herren, BSN, RNC-OB
GPA Board Member
Nashville, GA

Babies Need Their Vaccines

Guest Column

By Brenda Fitzgerald, MD
Commissioner, Department of Public Health

I don't know if there's a more disturbing and terrifying sight for a new mother: a baby coughing so violently and rapidly with such repetition that all of the air is gone from the child's lungs. And then comes the sound - a deep "whooping" gasp as baby struggles to replace the missing air and breathe.

Vomiting often comes next, and with it, a 50% chance the child, if an infant, will be hospitalized. For other babies, the symptoms can be less noticeable yet more dangerous, including apnea, or long pauses with no breathing.

None of this has to happen.

Whooping cough, or pertussis, is extremely dangerous for infants and yet is entirely preventable, along with more than a dozen other life-threatening diseases. Safeguarding baby requires the simplest of actions by the mother: straightforward, proven vaccination.

And while we cannot immediately vaccinate a baby against the devastating effects of whooping cough, we can vaccinate the mother, an immunity that covers that precious baby, too. Public health practitioners in Georgia are following the science and, as of this year, now recommend a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine for every pregnant mother in her third trimester.

I've heard all the arguments against vaccination. All have been debunked, including the infamous 1980s study in Europe about a similar vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella, and a supposed link - that we now know to be false - to autism, which shattered vaccine use in Europe. Outbreaks now plague the Continent, and here in the U.S., signs of trouble are building.

Pertussis outbreaks in Oregon and Texas and an ongoing outbreak in California should alarm us. In Georgia right now there are 83 confirmed cases of this disease.

Last year, Georgia experienced well over 300 confirmed pertussis cases - 89 of which were infants, and 79 of the cases, in infants less than six months old. And if Georgia follows the nation, Georgia's mothers will have passed whooping cough to almost half of those infants.

Mothers and expecting mothers, Georgia's babies need you.

Georgia ranks 39th in the nation for its immunization rates, according to the CDC's National Immunization Survey, which helps explain Georgia's 46 pertussis-related infant hospitalizations last year.

I am a mother. I am vaccinated. And I ask you to join me. Choose to vaccinate first yourself, and then your new baby. Follow the vaccine schedule, and guard against diseases like whooping cough that only you can prevent before baby is born.

As a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist, I have seen the devastating and painful effects of whooping cough and other vaccine-preventable diseases. I've seen mothers who fear every gasp of air might be their babies' last.

Get vaccinated. Help spread the truth on vaccines, not the diseases they prevent.

Don't wait, reserve your room now!

28th Annual GPA Conference
The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort
September 24-26, 2014

Hotel accommodations are available at the [King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort](#) for a group rate starting at \$120/night for a Standard Room or \$150/night for an Ocean Front Room.

The group rate will be offered until Monday, August 11 or until the room block is sold out.

So, don't wait! Make your reservation now to guarantee your room type and rate. To make your reservation please call 877-724-3170 and mention the "Georgia Perinatal Association" or e-mail your reservation to reservations@kingandprince.com.



Contribute to the GPA Newsletter

Read an interesting article that you would like to share your thoughts on with the perinatal community? Want your colleagues and fellow GPA members to know what your hospital is up to?

Send us an article and it could appear in the next GPA E-News edition!

Email Erica at the GPA Executive Office: erica@jlh-consulting.com.

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