

Guide for Talking to Your Doctor About RSV

Your baby's doctor is the best source of information about respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) disease. It is important for you to see your pediatrician to learn about your baby's risk for severe RSV disease. The risk factors checklist and questions below are designed to help you learn the important facts about your baby's risk for severe RSV disease. If your baby is at high risk, talk with your baby's doctor about additional protective steps you can take.

Baby's birth date _____

Baby's birth weight _____

How many weeks before your due date was the baby born? ___ weeks

You may see a different healthcare provider from time to time, so it's important to review your baby's medical history and other risk factors. Use this checklist and bring it with you to your next appointment.

Your baby could be at high risk for severe RSV disease if he or she:

- Was born early at less than 36 weeks
- Was born with certain heart problems or has chronic lung disease

Additional risk factors for premature infants may include:

- Being in daycare or spending more than 4 hours per week with other children
- Having school-age siblings
- Young chronological age (12 weeks of age or younger at the beginning of RSV season)
- Living with 4 or more family members
- Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke or other air pollutants
- Low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds)
- Family history of wheezing or asthma
- Being a twin, triplet or other multiple
- Severe neuromuscular disease
- Born with abnormal airways

Questions for the doctor

- Is my baby at risk of developing severe RSV disease?
- What can I do to prevent RSV disease?
- What are the symptoms of RSV disease?
- What can I do to help prevent the spread of RSV disease?
- What can I do to prevent RSV disease if my baby is at high risk?

