HOLLY SPRINGS PEDIATRICS

106 Hyannis Drive
Holly Springs, NC 27540
(T) 919-249-4700
(F) 919-249-4701

Practice Policy: Care of Newborns Following GBS Prophylaxis Refusal
Effective Date: 02/12/2024
Subject: Refusal of Intrapartum GBS Prophylaxis

1. Purpose
To establish a clear standard of care for our practice regarding the intake of newborns whose mothers were confirmed GBS-positive (or unknown status with risk factors) and refused recommended intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis (IAP).

2. Policy Statement
Due to significantly increased liability and the inability to provide the standard of care deemed necessary to prevent life-threatening early and late-onset GBS disease (sepsis, meningitis, death), **Holly Springs Pediatrics will not accept as new patients, or continue to provide outpatient care for, newborns whose mothers refused GBS intrapartum prophylaxis.**

3. Rationale
- **High Risk of Infection:** Approximately 50% of GBS-colonized women transmit the bacteria to their newborns, and in the absence of IAP, 1–2% of those infants will develop early-onset GBS disease.
- **Inability to Manage Risk:** The standard of care for a newborn born to a mother with untreated, known GBS positive status involves strict observation and potential invasive testing (lab work) for 48 hours. If the parent refuses to adhere to that protocol in the hospital, and subsequently refuses prophylactic management upon discharge, this practice cannot accept the liability associated with potential undiagnosed, rapid-onset, and potentially fatal sepsis.
- **Standard of Care Breach:** Pediatric care relies on the mitigation of risks identified during labor. Ignoring known high-risk factors (untreated maternal GBS) violates standard pediatric safety protocols.

4. Procedure
1. **Verification:** Upon receiving a request to care for a newborn, the office staff/provider will confirm GBS status and receipt of IAP from hospital records.
2. **Notification of Refusal:** If IAP was refused, the parent will be notified that our practice cannot provide care for the newborn.
3. **Documentation:** The refusal of prophylaxis, the risk explained to the parents, and the subsequent refusal of care by our practice will be documented in the electronic medical record (EMR).

5. Exception
This policy does not apply to situations where the mother was unknown GBS status, no risk factors were present, and therefore, antibiotics were not indicated by the CDC guidelines, or where the delivery was so precipitous that antibiotics could not be given.