

Hi and welcome to our 4th e-newsletter - we hope you find it useful and interesting. All you need to do is click on the links below for more information on any item:

ACTION PLEASE – PLEASE SIGN THE NEW PETITION FOR GBS TESTING: Please check out the petition asking the Prime Minister to offer all women the chance to be tested for group B Strep - <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/GroupB/> – and please ask your friends, family and colleagues to sign it too. (Thank you to Nichola Stapleton for setting up the survey – if any of you know her, please ask her to get in touch with us!)

ACTION PLEASE – PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEYS ON OUR WEBSITE: If you have time and you haven't already, please complete the surveys on our website regarding GBS Awareness and GBS Choices – http://www.gbss.org.uk/survey.php?section_id=11§ion=surveys.

ACTION PLEASE – GBSS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DRAW: Have you got your tickets for our annual Charity Draw? Tickets are 50p each. The prizes are **1st prize: £500, 2nd prize: £250, 3rd prize: £100.** The draw takes place on Saturday, 13th December 2008. If you would like us to send you some for selling or to purchase in support of Group B Strep Support, please let us know at info@gbss.co.uk or telephone: 01444 416176. Good Luck!

THE UK NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE: The UK NSC is holding a stakeholder meeting on 12 November 2008 to consider the most recent developments regarding preventing group B Strep infection in newborn babies. Jane Plumb, our Chief Executive will be representing GBSS at this meeting, together with members of our medical advisory panel. The outcome will be made available through the NHS specialist screening library (and we'll post a link on our website as soon as we can!).

WE REGULARLY UPDATE OUR WEBSITE – HERE ARE A FEW OF THE RECENT ADDITIONS

DEVANI RESEARCH PROJECT INTO DEVELOPING A VACCINE AGAINST GBS This European Commission Framework Seven project (HEALTH-F5-2007-200481), began on 1st January 2008, to provide useful information for the development of a vaccine against infections in babies caused by GBS. Public Health Institutes and Universities from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom (Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections) are all participating in the project. The study is coordinated by Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics, Siena, Italy - <http://www.hpa.nhs.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1216711958769?p=1216711958769> for more information and http://www.hpa.nhs.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1222236723117 for a chart summarising the project.

SOMETIMES THINGS GO WRONG AND NOTHING COULD HAVE BEEN DONE TO PREVENT IT. Sometimes that's not so true. And, either way, sometimes all of us can learn from mistakes that have been made. If you want the NHS to investigate your situation, to give you an apology, an explanation, and/or assurances that it won't happen to others, then putting your complaint in writing to them is one way to start. See http://www.gbss.org.uk/content.php?section_id=12&sub_id=77&content=Complaints%20:%20NHS for more information about how to go about this.

NEW BOOK RELEASE Just released is a new book, Mourning Sarah. It's a mother's story of the death of her newborn baby from group B Strep infection. It's a story of grief and recovery - one theme is empowerment. For more information, http://www.amazon.co.uk/Mourning-Sarah-Testing-Patient-Narratives/dp/1846192641/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1213787969&sr=8-1.

GBSS BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER: We are currently pulling together our Winter Newsletter to publish and send out in the New Year to our members. If you have any items you would like us to include, then please forward them to info@gbss.co.uk before 31st December 2008 so we can include them – if you can keep it to under 1,000 words, that would be great. (GBSS reserves the right to edit anything sent to us for publication.)

GBSS ONLINE SHOP: Buy **Christmas Cards** and **great stocking fillers** from our online shop [here](#). You can also raise money for GBSS by ordering other **cards, jewellery, gifts and flowers** from the **Fundraising Page** of our website at http://www.gbss.org.uk/content.php?sub_id=51§ion_id=13 and by searching the web using Everyclick as your search engine. Use www.everyclick.com/uk/gbss your homepage and every search you make via this site will mean more money for GBSS (and at no cost to you)!

E-CARDS: Did you know you can send e-cards from our website? See <http://www.gbss.org.uk/sendcard/index.php> for a variety of cards suitable for most occasions; they're free to send (though we'd welcome donations), and they're a great way of raising awareness of GBSS at the same time as sending a card. If you'd like to create an e-card for us to use, please send your ideas to info@gbss.org.uk.

We would be delighted to hear any comments and suggestions to improve what we do – or if you'd like leaflets and/or posters to distribute locally, just let us know at info@gbss.co.uk or 01444 416176.

And, if you'd prefer not to receive e-mails such as this from us, please let us know and we'll amend our records accordingly. By the way, just to reassure you, we would never pass on your contacts details to anyone without your express permission.

Until next time and with our very best wishes,

The GBSS Team

P.S. We've recently made some updates to the database we hold our contact information on so, if by chance you get this email more than once, or some other strange thing happens, please let us know (and sorry)!

Group B Strep Support

preventing life-threatening group B Strep infection in newborn babies

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