



**THE  
ROTUNDA  
HOSPITAL**  
DUBLIN

**Dove Clinic**

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**THE  
ROTUNDA  
HOSPITAL**  
DUBLIN

*Administrative  
& General Care*

OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT

# Dove Clinic



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*The details for this specific leaflet are included in the brackets above.*



CARING FOR GENERATIONS  
SINCE 1745



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## Background

The DOVE clinic looks after the specific needs of pregnant women who have or are at risk of blood and sexually transmitted bacterial/viral infections. Your care will be managed by a multidisciplinary team, enabling individualised care throughout your pregnancy and birth of your baby. At your clinic visits you will meet an obstetrician. This is a doctor who looks after pregnant women. You will also meet a midwife and a social worker as well as other members of the team according to your individual needs. It is important that you feel comfortable and can discuss issues openly with the team at the clinic.

## The Clinic:

The main clinic runs every Wednesday from 1.30pm to 4.30pm at The Rotunda Hospital, Parnell Square, Dublin 1. If the doctors decide you need to see a liver specialist, this clinic is held on the second Wednesday of every month from 9am to 12.30pm.

## Medical Social Worker:

A social worker is attached to the DOVE clinic and can be met during clinic or by appointment Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm, by phoning 01 817 1722.

<b>The Team</b>	
<b>Infectious Disease Liaison (DOVE)</b>	<b>Mairéad Lawless</b>
<b>Midwife</b>	<b>087 415 1478</b>
<b>Addiction Services Liaison Midwife</b>	<b>Justin Gleeson</b>
<b>Medical Social Worker</b>	<b>Nicola Rodgers</b>
<b>Consultant Obstetrician</b>	<b>Dr. Maeve Eogan</b>
<b>Consultant in Infectious Diseases</b>	<b>Dr. Jack Lambert</b>
<b>Consultant in GI/Hepatology</b>	<b>Dr. Barry Kelleher</b>
<b>Associate Specialist Paediatrician with Paeds ID (The Rainbow Team)</b>	<b>Dr. Wendy Ferguson</b>

## What to expect at your antenatal visits:

- *Following your first visit, you will always attend the DOVE clinic on a Wednesday afternoon.*
- *The doctor who sees you at each visit will tell you when you need to make an appointment to come back to the DOVE clinic. You need to make this appointment before you leave the hospital, at the same desk where you checked in.*
- *Your scan appointment may be on a different day. We will inform you of this.*
- *At each visit you will be seen by a midwife and the doctor.*
- *Your blood pressure and urine will be checked, to see how well your body is coping with the pregnancy.*
- *Relevant blood tests will be done at various stages throughout your pregnancy.*
- *The development of your baby is monitored. The baby's heart beat is checked and occasionally the doctor may do a scan.*
- *Advice is given about ongoing care in pregnancy and preparation for labour.*
- *If you have any questions please feel free to ask them at the clinic.*
- *An arrangement will be made for you to meet the social worker at least once during your pregnancy. Her role is to provide you with information and support. This includes practical advice on your entitlements and is an opportunity to discuss any difficulties which you may experience.*

## Postnatal Care:

After giving birth, the team members are available to visit you and your baby on the postnatal ward. Your baby will be reviewed by the paediatrician from the DOVE team. Both you and your baby may have follow up appointments here in the Rotunda. It is important you attend these appointments.

## HIV and Pregnancy:

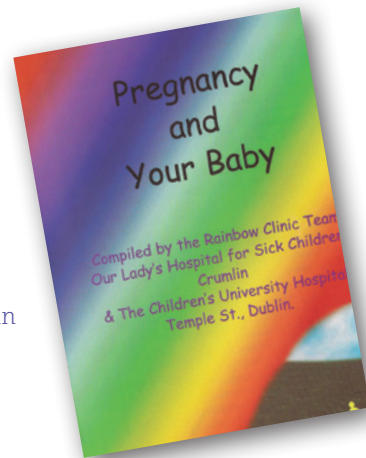
The DOVE midwife in the Rotunda Hospital will liaise with the team in the general hospital you attend e.g. The Mater Hospital or Beaumont Hospital and also with the paediatric team (The Rainbow Team) at Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin or Temple Street Hospital. This ensures that all professionals have the information they need to deliver the best possible care to you and your baby.

A HIV positive woman who is pregnant, will be advised to take anti HIV drugs (after the first few months of pregnancy) to help her own health, as well as taking them to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV. These medicines are free of charge during pregnancy.

HIV does not change how the pregnancy proceeds and does not affect the development of your baby. You will be able to have an epidural during labour if you wish. You should bring your own medicines to hospital with you when you come in to deliver and continue to take them as prescribed. The doctor will have informed you at an earlier visit if you need to continue taking your medicines once your baby is delivered.

Your baby will be given medications following birth and will usually continue to need these medications for 4 weeks. You will be shown how to give these on the postnatal ward. You should not breastfeed your baby. Your baby will require regular HIV testing; this will be done at birth and at the age of 2 weeks at the Rotunda Hospital. After this, follow-up testing will be with the Rainbow Team at Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin or Temple Street Hospital.

The DOVE midwife will provide you with additional information specific to HIV and pregnancy (including a copy of the booklet *Pregnancy and Your Baby* by the Rainbow team) and will answer any questions you have.



### ***Disclosure of your HIV Status to Partner:***

HIV positive women are encouraged to disclose their diagnosis to their partner so that he may offer support and also so that he can be tested for the infection and receive the appropriate medical treatment if necessary. The team understands this may be a difficult conversation to have and are happy to assist disclosure.

### ***Hepatitis B and Pregnancy:***

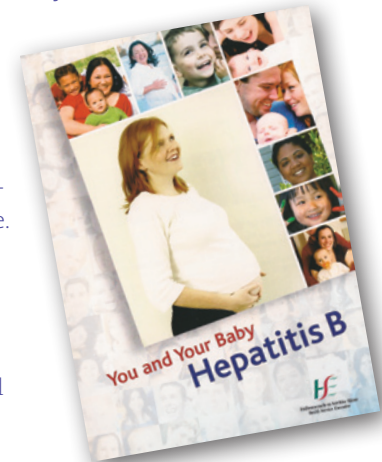
Whether you have been diagnosed as having Hepatitis B at antenatal screening or were aware of your diagnosis at booking, you will receive your antenatal care at the DOVE clinic. Hepatitis B does not change how your pregnancy proceeds and does not affect the development of your baby. The main aim is to optimize your health throughout the pregnancy and minimize the risk of transmitting Hepatitis B to your baby. To achieve this you may or may not require treatment during pregnancy – the doctor will discuss this with you.

The DOVE midwife will provide you with additional information specific to Hepatitis B and pregnancy (including a copy of the booklet *You and Your Baby – Hepatitis B*) and will answer any questions you have.

As it is important to prevent further spread of the disease to others, the DOVE midwife will also provide you with information on how the disease can be spread and will refer your sexual partner and household contacts for vaccination if appropriate.

Your baby will be immunized soon after birth.

Your baby will require additional doses of the vaccine from your GP at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. It is very important that your baby receives all of the doses. A blood test will be offered at 8 months to determine the Hepatitis B status of your baby; this will take place with the Rainbow Team Paediatrician at the Rainbow Clinic at the Rotunda Hospital. You will be allowed to breastfeed your baby.

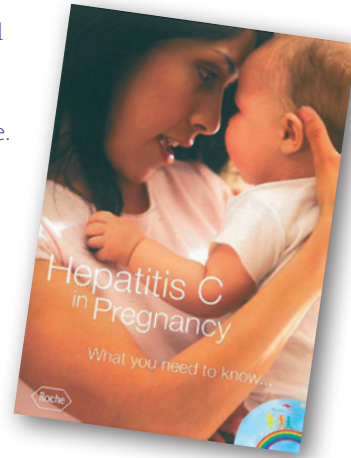


### ***Hepatitis C and Pregnancy:***

Being diagnosed with Hepatitis C will not change how your pregnancy proceeds and will not affect the development of your baby. If you have an active infection, there is a small risk (5-7%) of passing the infection on to your baby. To minimize these risks it is important that you remain healthy during your pregnancy. You can do this by attending all your antenatal checks, eating healthily and getting lots of rest. It is also important to avoid alcohol and /or drugs.

The DOVE midwife will provide you with additional information specific to Hepatitis C and pregnancy (including a copy of the booklet Hepatitis C in Pregnancy) and will answer any questions you have.

Your baby will require follow-up testing at 6 weeks (at the paediatric Rainbow Clinic at the Rotunda Hospital) and at 6 months and 18 months (at the Rainbow Clinic) to ensure they have not been infected. The Rainbow Team Paediatrician will liaise with the Rainbow Team at Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin or Temple Street Hospital to arrange this. Breastfeeding is allowed in most circumstances.



### ***Syphilis and Pregnancy:***

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted bacterial infection. It is very easily treated but if left untreated the infection can cause serious health complications and the infection could be passed to your baby.

You may already be aware of your diagnosis and have received prior treatment. However if this is a new diagnosis or the doctors feel you may not have had sufficient treatment in the past they will commence treatment during this pregnancy. Treatment involves an injection of penicillin once a week for three weeks. Also as it is important to prevent re-infection or further spread of the disease to others, the DOVE midwife will refer your sexual partner for screening and treatment if appropriate.

After birth your baby will need a blood test and may need to get penicillin. Follow-up blood testing and physical examination will take place with the Rainbow Team Paediatrician at the Rotunda Hospital. This will be arranged prior to discharge.

The DOVE midwife will provide you with additional information and will answer any questions you have.

### ***Drug Use and Pregnancy:***

For many women with a history of substance misuse, a pregnancy can sometimes provide a great opportunity for a change of lifestyle. However this process of change can be quite difficult and often requires assistance from many agencies and professionals, to help minimise the harmful effects these drugs may have on your baby. In the DOVE Clinic, a specialist midwife in addiction will see you during your pregnancy and will assist your efforts to achieve drug stability by liaising with all agencies involved in your care.



It is important that you seek the advice of the Drug Liaison Midwife before considering any dose reduction or detox due to the potential dangers it may cause to your pregnancy. The Drug Liaison Midwife will provide you with additional information (including a copy of the booklet Substance Misuse in Pregnancy) and will answer any questions you have.

### ***Additional Services available at the DOVE Clinic***

Diagnosis and management/treatment of other infectious diseases

*Vaginal warts*

*Chlamydia*

*Gonorrhoea*

*Herpes*

Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is available if you have had recent unprotected sex with a known HIV positive partner. PEP may reduce your risk of contracting HIV but it must be taken within 72 hours of the exposure. If you feel you need PEP, call the hospital assessment and emergency unit as soon as you can, day or night - (01) 817 1700.

Please contact any member of the DOVE Clinic in the Outpatient Department for further information on any of the above issues. We are happy to meet with you and discuss any concerns you may have. We hope that attending the DOVE Clinic is a positive experience for you and your baby.