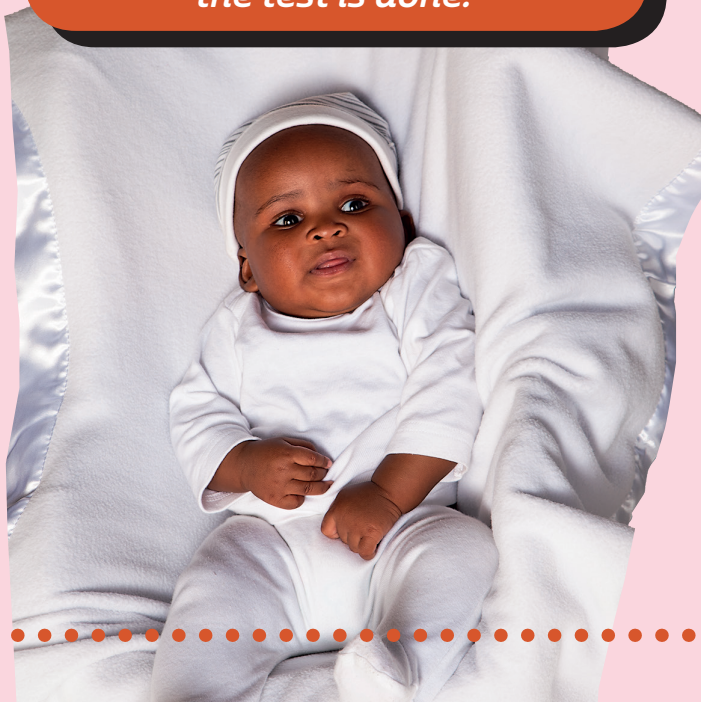


All babies born to HIV positive mothers must be tested for HIV

When is the baby tested for HIV?

- Some babies will be tested for HIV at birth (your doctor or nurse will tell you if your baby needs to be tested)
- When the baby is 6 weeks old (this applies to all babies born to HIV positive mothers).
- 6 weeks after stopping breastfeeding.
- At 18 months.
- Some babies will need an HIV test at other times, for example after birth or at 16 weeks. Your doctor or nurse will tell you if your baby needs any other tests. Always find out when next to test the baby.

Results must be collected from the clinic within 1-2 weeks after the test is done.



What happens when the HIV test results are negative?

- Remember that even if the baby tests negative at the first test, you still need to feed the baby safely, give them any medications you were given from the clinic/hospital and bring them to all their check-ups.
- If your baby had an HIV-test at birth and it was negative, the test must be repeated at 6 weeks.
- If the results are negative at 6 weeks, the HIV test must be repeated 6 weeks after stopping breastfeeding
- If still negative, the test must be repeated again at 18 months.

What happens when the HIV test results are positive?

- If the baby tests positive at any age, the baby will be started on antiretroviral treatment as soon as possible. They will take this treatment for life.
- Infants and children under 5 years of age are started on treatment immediately

Nevirapine syrup for the baby

- All babies born to HIV positive mothers are started on nevirapine syrup at birth.
- Some babies may also be given AZT as well as nevirapine. The doctor or nurse will tell you what to give your baby.
- The doctor or nurse will tell you how long to give the nevirapine and any other medications. Nevirapine will usually be stopped at 6 weeks, but may be given longer to certain babies. Formula-fed babies will only take nevirapine for 6 weeks. Mothers who started antiretroviral therapy (eg FDC) more than 4 weeks before

delivery and who have a low viral load will also stop the nevirapine at 6 weeks.

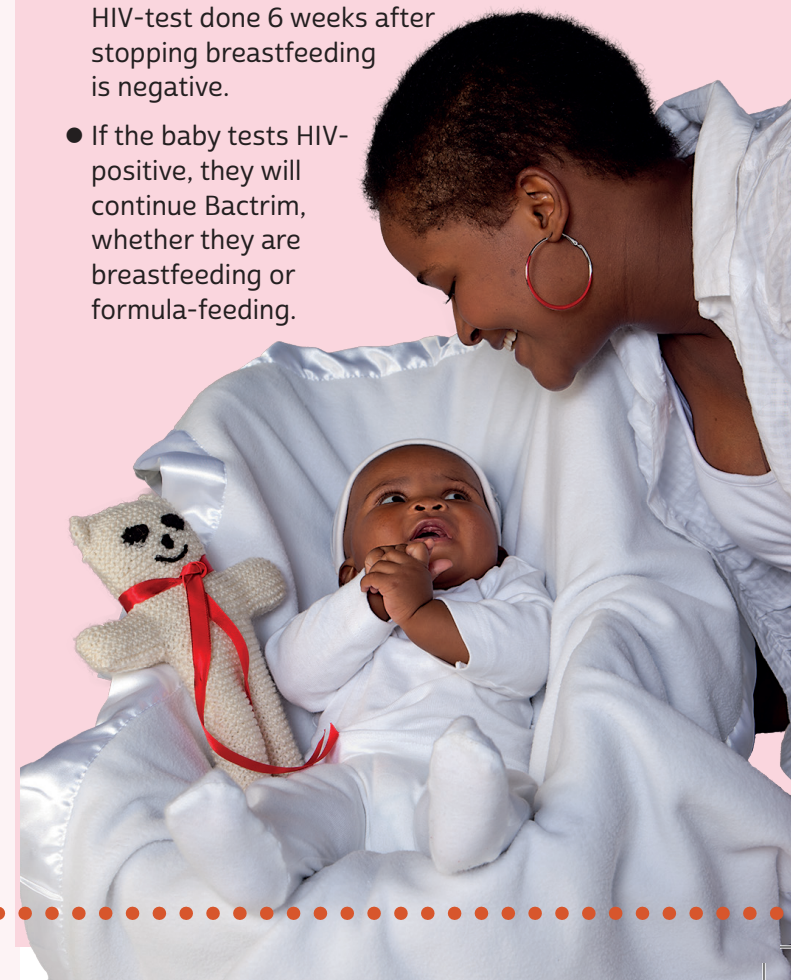
- If you are giving the nevirapine for longer than 6 weeks, check how much to give as the amount will increase as the baby gets older.

Bactrim syrup for the baby

- Bactrim syrup is started at 6 weeks of age in all babies born to mothers who are HIV positive to prevent opportunistic infections.

How long should Bactrim be given for?

- If the baby is formula feeding and the HIV test is negative, Bactrim will be stopped.
- If the baby is breastfeeding, they should continue Bactrim until they stop breastfeeding and the HIV-test done 6 weeks after stopping breastfeeding is negative.
- If the baby tests HIV-positive, they will continue Bactrim, whether they are breastfeeding or formula-feeding.



What YOU need to know about...

Testing your baby for HIV (PCR)



If your baby is HIV-positive, treatment is available. This can be started as soon as possible. It will help to keep your baby strong and healthy

What is exclusive Breastfeeding?

Exclusive breastfeeding is defined as giving the baby only human milk with no supplementation of any type (no water, no juice, no nonhuman milk, no soft porridge, no yoghurt and no soft foods) except for medications prescribed by a doctor / health care worker when medically indicated.

What are the key benefits of breastfeeding for the Baby?

- Breast milk provides all the nutrients your baby needs to grow and develop for the first six months, it also continues to provide most of the nutrients your baby needs from 6 to 12 months.
- Breast milk contains antibodies that help strengthen the immune system of the baby and hence helps prevent common illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia.
- Breastfed babies are less likely to have respiratory and middle-ear infections than formula fed babies.
- Breast milk contains special substances that keep the gut lining strong, which helps in reducing chances of infection.

- Colostrum (the first milk the baby gets just after birth) is regarded as the first immunization. This milk is rich in protective substances and is vital for the baby who has now made a transition from being protected in the womb to being exposed to all sorts of infections in the environment.
- The baby cannot get these protective substances from any other form of feeding.
- Breast milk is the best way to feed a baby and is also the best gift the mother can give to her child to start life well equipped to survive diseases and infections.

For more information: www.hivsa.com



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• The people in the images are models and do not necessarily have HIV or any condition portrayed in this pamphlet.



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