



Practice sting 2021-17

## Practice sting Prescribing medication for the unborn child

Sometimes a neonate just after birth needs a medicine or vaccine that is not available on the hospital ward. This is not easy to achieve within the normal prescription process where prescriptions are made on the basis of patient name. This can lead to an incident as shown in the message below.

### Notification

An HBsAg positive woman is about to give birth in the obstetrics department. To ensure that the neonate receives hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immunoglobulin within two hours of birth, the doctor prescribed Engerix-B Junior and HepBQuin in the mother's name. The pharmacy delivers the requested medicines in the name of the mother. Subsequently, a nurse administers the vaccine and the immunoglobulin to the mother.

### Analysis

A number of things have gone wrong.

- The vaccine and the immunoglobulin are not prescribed in the name of the person who is to receive the medicine.
- The pharmacy assistant does not notice that an adult has been prescribed Engerix-B Junior.
- The nurse administers the vaccine and the immunoglobulin to the mother.

### Question to the Dutch hospital pharmacists

In order to learn from each other, VMI would like to receive your answer to the question below. VMI will provide you with anonymized feedback on the results in the Practice sting Special.

*How is a medicine or vaccine prescribed and delivered in your hospital that is not in stock on the ward and that is intended for a neonate who must receive it shortly after birth?*

You can send your answer to [vmi@ivm.nl](mailto:vmi@ivm.nl).