

# Discharge Instructions for Amniocentesis



You had an amniocentesis. This is a prenatal test. It helps you learn whether a fetus has health problems. The test is most often done between the 15th and 20th week of pregnancy. It is also done to check the condition of the lungs of a baby who will be delivered several weeks early.

## Home care

- Limit your activity for 24 to 48 hours after the procedure.
- Know the risks involved with amniocentesis. This can help you recognize if you are having complications. Make sure you understand the following risks:
  - Loss of blood
  - Infection
  - Harm to the baby from the needle
  - Harm to the placenta or cord from the needle
  - Premature breaking of the amniotic sac
  - Premature labor or contractions
  - Miscarriage
- Don't be alarmed if you have some brief, mild cramping. This is normal.

## Follow-up

Make a follow-up appointment with your healthcare provider.

## When to call your healthcare provider

Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following:

- Fever above 100.4°F ° ( 38°C ) or chills
- Bright red vaginal bleeding or a smelly discharge
- Contractions or severe cramping
- Liquid vaginal discharge that doesn't stop
- Redness or swelling where your healthcare provider inserted the needle
- Decreased movement of the baby if the amniocentesis is done late in pregnancy

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