



The comeback kid

We very nearly lost our miracle baby...

By Catherine Fahey, 24, from Manchester



Home!
A bug could've taken our baby

Coming out of the bathroom, I stared at my boyfriend Daniel. 'You're pregnant, aren't you?' he said. I nodded my head and burst into happy tears. 'That's brilliant news,' Daniel grinned. It was October 2013 and being a mum was something I never expected could happen to me...

At 18, I'd been diagnosed with endometriosis. I was told there was only a 10 per cent chance I'd ever get pregnant. So when I'd met Daniel in 2012, I'd been open about it.

'Let's not dwell on it,' he'd said supportively. Now, we didn't have to worry! At 16 weeks, we had a private scan as Daniel couldn't wait to find out the sex. 'It's a boy,' the nurse said. By 38 weeks, I was bursting with excitement. My due date passed...

Seven days later, I had a few bouts of gushing. My waters breaking? 'Not yet,' doctors said. But it happened again. Next day, after an examination, doctors said my waters were leaking, but I had to wait for labour to start. On 27 June



Happy chippie!

this year, I was 10 days overdue. I was admitted to North Manchester Central Hospital. And by 2pm, my contractions had kicked in. Baby David finally arrived, weighing 8lb 4oz. 'He's amazing,' I whispered, holding him for the first time. Soon, Daniel and my family headed home, and David and I settled down for the night.

He was on a drip, couldn't breathe

He was very quiet and didn't wake for a feed. It didn't seem normal. But I was a first-time mum, wasn't sure. Next morning, a midwife got him to take a bottle. Then a doctor did some newborn checks.

'Something's wrong,' she said, whisking my baby away. I called Daniel and my mum in floods of tears... I was hysterical as doctors led me to see David in a resuscitation room, on oxygen. 'No...' I sobbed.

He was rushed to the Neo-Natal Unit while doctors ran tests and pumped him full of antibiotics. Wired up to machines and put on a drip, David struggled to breathe. It was terrifying. We still didn't know what was wrong. 'Please be OK,' Daniel and I whispered. Because David's oxygen levels had

dropped, doctors were worried about brain damage. Our boy had to endure a lumbar puncture, too. Doctors diagnosed David with group B strep – an infection not dangerous to adults, but very risky for newborns. I'd passed it to David while he was in the birth canal. It was the first I'd heard of it, but it'd put my son's life in danger. Antibiotics helped. Even better, David hadn't suffered any brain damage. After 10 days of antibiotics, he was discharged. Back home, I researched group B strep. Had I been tested for it

while pregnant, a simple antibiotic injection would have stopped the trauma David had. But tests aren't available on the NHS unless a woman is considered at risk. But we were the lucky ones – GBS can cause late miscarriage and stillbirth, and babies can lose their lives. Thankfully, David's five months now and doing great. He's loud, lively, and cheeky! I hope by sharing our story we can raise awareness of GBS and stop any other families suffering like we have – or worse.

A simple jab could have spared him

See www.gbs.org.uk Words: Louise Bujdint/Carol Davis

WE PAY CASH We'll pay cash, or mention a charity of your choice, if we print your health story. Write to Your Health, Chat, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU or phone 020 3148 6150. You can send your story or e-mail the Doc at chathealth@timeinc.com Always consult your pharmacist or GP before taking any over-the-counter or prescription remedies, and read the packet carefully.