

## Going to the Doctor

### What Questions Should I Ask the Doctor About the Hospital Experience?

- How many days should we expect to be in the hospital after the baby is born?
- Under what circumstances will you have to do a C-section?
- Can I stay with my partner if she needs a C-section?



**What Is a Cesarean Birth?** It's the birth of a baby by surgery. A Cesarean is also called a C-section. The doctor opens the mother's belly, cuts through the uterus — or womb — and lifts the baby out. The doctor cuts the cord and then stitches up the mother's incision. A C-section is a major operation. Full recovery from a C-section usually takes 4-6 weeks, much longer than recovery from a vaginal birth. Your partner will need rest and she won't be able to lift or carry things, including your baby. In other words, she'll need more help after a Cesarean birth.

**Whooping cough** (also called pertussis), is a highly contagious respiratory infection that spreads easily and can cause severe illness and even death. It is especially dangerous for infants under 6 months of age, who are too young to be well-protected by vaccines for whooping cough.

It's important for parents, grandparents or anyone who will care for your baby to get a DTaP vaccine, which protects against whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria. If you've never gotten a DTaP vaccine, you should ideally get it at least 2 weeks before visiting the baby. And your partner should get the DTaP vaccine during her third trimester of pregnancy.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) immunization schedule, DTaP shots are recommended at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 through 18 months and 4 through 6 years old.

To learn more about whooping cough and vaccination, visit [www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough](http://www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough), or talk with your health care professional.