Red Reflex Test

November 2011

Red Eye Reflex is now included in the pre-discharge examination in the ‘My Health and Development Record’

What it is?
The Red Reflex test is the observed reflection of light from the retina when examined with an ophthalmoscope. This is sometimes seen in photographs when a flash is used. Failure to identify a red reflex in one or both eyes suggests that there is an obstruction to the passage of light through the eye, such as cataract or retinoblastoma.

When should it be completed?
The Red Reflex Test is normally undertaken soon after birth, but can be tested at any age. The Red Reflex test is included in the newborn’s pre-discharge examination

Who completes this?
At birth, it is usually performed by a midwife or doctor. If the Red Reflex Test is not completed at this time, or if there is a concern expressed by the parent, refer to General Practitioner.

Maternal and Child Health nurse role
At the 2 week MCH Key Ages and Stages consultation the MCH nurse will:

- Review the pre-discharge examination details (in the My Birth details section of My Health and Development Record) to confirm if the Red Reflex Test has been completed.

- Record whether the Red Reflex Test has been completed.
  Data recorded: Red Reflex Test completed YES/NO

- The MCH Nurse records YES if the Red Reflex Test has been documented as completed in the pre-discharge examination of the child.

- The MCH Nurse records NO if the Red Reflex Test has not been documented as completed in the pre-discharge examination of the child.

- If Red Reflex test has not been completed refer the child to General Practitioner. Record this as a referral.