

RISK FACTORS

PRETERM LABOR

MEDICAL RISK FACTORS INCLUDE:

- Previous preterm labor or preterm birth
- Pregnancy with twins, triplets, etc. (multiples)
- An infection of the amniotic fluid or fetal membranes
- Other infections, including
 - Urinary tract infections (UTI's)
 - Sexually transmitted diseases (STD's)
 - Recurring bladder and/or kidney infections
 - Vaginal infections
 - Infections with fever (greater than 101 °F) during pregnancy
- Too much amniotic fluid
- Abnormalities in the uterus or problems with the cervix or placenta
- Vaginal bleeding during pregnancy
 - Especially unexplained vaginal bleeding after 20 weeks of pregnancy
- Certain medical conditions, including high blood pressure, kidney disease and diabetes
- Pregnancy before age 17 or after age 35
- Multiple miscarriages or abortions
- Underweight or overweight before pregnancy
- Clotting disorder, such as thrombophilia

LIFESTYLE RISK FACTORS INCLUDE:

- Little or no prenatal care
- Smoking cigarettes
- Drinking alcohol
- Use of illegal drugs
- High levels of stress
- Stressful life events
 - Death of a loved one
 - Domestic violence
- Lack of social support
- Long working hours with long periods of standing

For more information, contact
Healthy Start
(219) 989-3939

The information provided here is not intended to be used for the diagnosis or treatment of a health problem or as a substitute for consulting a licensed medical professional.

Supported in part by project H49MC00083 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act).