Government of **Western Australia**
North Metropolitan Health Service
Public Health and Clinical Excellence

Congenital syphilis

If you have syphilis, it is important you take the antibiotics prescribed.

Without treatment, syphilis can pass onto your baby. This is called congenital syphilis and may cause:

- Miscarriage
- Premature birth
- Stillbirth and neonatal death
- Enlarged liver and spleen
- Deformities of the teeth and bones
- Blisters and skin rashes
- Developmental delay

Antibiotic treatment can prevent this.

Figure 1. Teeth deformities

Figure 2. Enlarged liver

Figure 3. Skin rash

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Figure 1. Healthline; **Figure 2.** Keuning, M et al. (2020). Congenital syphilis, the great imitator—case report and review. Infectious diseases, 20, 7: 173-179; **Figure 3.** Cooper, J & Sanchez, P. (2018). Congenital syphilis. Seminars in Perinatology, 42, 3: 176-184. Courtesy of Dr. Mario del Barco of the Hospital Materno Infantil, Salta, Argentina and Dr. Liliana Vázquez, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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