

Baby B's Birth story



Baby B is a male, born on July 1, 2021, at 27 weeks gestation via vaginal delivery weighing 2 lbs. 6 oz. Post-delivery Baby B was breathing on his own within 24 hours. He was discharged home from the NICU on August 26, 2021. Nine days following discharge, Baby B was admitted to the hospital PICU due to apnea. He was placed on a ventilator for 10 days and stayed in the hospital for 3 weeks. It was later determined that the apnea was due to viral meningitis. Baby B was referred to early intervention due to prematurity, atypical feeding, and torticollis. Additionally, he has kidney damage, is at risk for vision and hearing delays.

Mrs. B shared that this is her second pregnancy. She explained that this pregnancy was considered high risk due to diagnosis of incompetent cervix during her last pregnancy. She explained that when she initially went to the hospital days before Baby B was born, she was told she was having Braxton Hicks. When she returned, she was sent to another hospital that could handle preterm labor at 27 weeks gestation. Mrs. B explained that she began to think about her first delivery which she described as traumatic because she felt dismissed by hospital staff when she told them she was in labor. She felt that she had to have an emergency C-section with her first son because the staff didn't listen to her. She said that she was told she would not be able to have a vaginal delivery after her first child due to her having a "double cut C-section". Yet she was told to push during the birth of Baby B which is why she delivered him vaginally. She shared that the delivery was very confusing and happened so fast. Not to mention, that after being told about all of the risks involved with having a baby at 27 weeks, Baby B was born inside his amniotic sac. She described the look of horror on the nurses faces coupled with the speed in which that whisked him away that caused her to believe that Baby B was dead.

Mrs. B shared that she returned to work when Baby B was 4 weeks old so that she could save some leave for when he came home. She recounted crying to and from work, feeling resentful towards her partner, thinking that he could do more to help with their toddler. Mrs. B recalled her husband finding Baby B unresponsive, only days after being discharged from the NICU. She vividly described the specific instructions she had to give her husband, as he appeared paralyzed from the experience, while she administered CPR to Baby B until the ambulance arrived. She shared that he coded two more times before getting to the hospital. She later learned that the virus that caused the meningitis was the common cold. She wondered how this could have happened as they practiced extreme caution and no one in the home was or had been sick. Mrs. B shared feelings of uncertainty, not knowing if Baby B would get sick again, stop breathing again, develop like other children, or if he would have a "normal" life. Despite all of these overwhelming thoughts, she was certain of one thing, she was glad he was finally home.

