



Signs of an unwell baby

We may recommend that you and your baby stay in hospital for at least 24 hours after the birth for observation in certain circumstances.

Staying in hospital means that if your baby becomes unwell it can be picked up quickly and appropriate treatment started.

Please take your baby to a doctor (or the emergency department / urgent care centre) immediately if they show any of the following signs of infection or serious illness at any time after going home.

A FOR ALERTNESS

- your baby is more drowsy than usual, does not wake properly; or
- does not respond to normal stimulation and is less active, weak and unusually quiet; or
- has a dislike of being handled, is fretful or irritable

B FOR BREATHING

- your baby has abnormal breathing sounds, they may look labored with indrawn ribs, flaring nostrils; or
- is grunting with each breath, has slow or fast breathing, difficulty breathing; or
- has noisy breathing or stops breathing for more than 15 seconds

C FOR CIRCULATION

- your baby becomes pale, blotchy, or is turning blue, and has cold legs or cold hands, or feels unusually cold; or
- feels hot or has a fever (more than 38 degrees C)

O FOR OTHER SYMPTOMS

- your baby has a change in feeding (less than four wet nappies over 24 hours); or
- is vomiting (green vomit), or refusing feeds; or
- has a high-pitched cry, moaning cry or whimpering or continuous cry; or
- is tense, or has a swollen or sunken soft spot on head; or
- has a lump in the groin area

The more signs and symptoms present the higher the risk of serious illness and you should call 000.

INDIVIDUAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS