



What every
parent needs
to know about
Jaundice in
young babies

*Aylesbury Vale
Clinical Commissioning Group*

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Clinical Commissioning Group*



What is Jaundice?

Jaundice is a very common condition in new-born babies that is usually harmless. It requires monitoring and may need treatment.

Signs of jaundice are a yellow or tanned appearance of the skin and sometimes, yellowing of the whites of the eyes and the inside of the mouth.

Is Jaundice Serious?

It can be – so if your baby has signs of jaundice they must see the Community Midwife, or Health Visitor who can assess them.

They will use a simple hand held monitor which they will place on your baby's forehead to monitor their level of jaundice. This will not hurt your baby.



Occasionally Jaundice can be a sign of something more serious – so please urgently contact your Community Midwife if your baby has jaundice (looks yellow or tanned) **and** has any of the following:

- is less than 24 hours old
- is too sleepy to feed
- pale or chalky faeces (poo)
- dark coloured urine (wee)
- is irritable and not feeding well

How should I check for Jaundice?

- look in natural light
- check whether your baby's face looks yellow or tanned
- check whether the whites of their eyes look yellow
- press the tip of the nose and look for a yellow colour as you take your finger away
- you can ask your Community Midwife or Health Visitor to help you



For more information about post natal support and clinics to help with breastfeeding and caring for your baby please see:

Birthchoice Buckinghamshire

<http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/birthchoices/following-birth.htm>



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This guidance is written in the following context: This document was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available including but not exclusively NICE and NHS evidence, as applicable. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. The guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient in consultation with the patient and / or carer.

www.chilternccg.nhs.uk www.aylesburyvaleccg.nhs.uk