

Newborn Warning Signs

This chapter lists warning signs that require a call to 911, your newborn's clinic, or your care provider.

When to Call

Call 911 if:

- Your baby is having a medical emergency.
- The clinic is closed and your baby has a problem that you feel cannot wait.

Call your baby's clinic right away if your baby has:

- An underarm temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.
- A hard time waking up for feedings, seems too tired to eat, is not interested in eating, is rarely alert, and is floppy (weak muscle tone).
- Red or hot skin around the belly button.
- Shortness of breath, a hard time breathing, or is breathing fast for several minutes.



Call your baby's clinic if you have concerns.

Call your baby's clinic within 24 hours if:

- You do not already have a clinic visit scheduled with your baby's health care provider on day 3, 4, or 5, or you do not know if you do.

This visit is very important. Your baby will be weighed at this visit. Most times, the number of a newborn's pees and poops increases over the first few days of life. But how often your baby pees and poops does not always tell you how much your baby is eating. Your baby's weight is the only way to know this.

- Your baby does not seem satisfied after feedings.

- Your baby is not breastfeeding at least 8 times in 24 hours (or bottle-feeding at least 6 times in 24 hours).
- Your baby's skin or eyes are turning more and more yellow.
- Your baby coughs or chokes a lot during feedings.
- Your baby vomits green liquid, vomits more than 2 times in a day, or vomits and has diarrhea. (Vomiting is when the stomach contents "shoot out" of the mouth)
- Your baby has a problem you feel cannot wait until your baby's next clinic visit.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your baby's healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

If your baby has a medical emergency, call 911.