



**Advanced
Pediatric
Associates_{LLP}**

How to Tell if Your Infant is Ill

Your infant's behavior is the best way to tell when he or she is ill. *If you suspect your infant is ill, please call our Central Appointment Line at 303-699-6200.* The following behaviors are good indicators of illness in infants:

Poor Feeding

Occasionally your baby may not want to eat as soon as you expect, but the baby who completely refuses to eat over a period of 6 to 8 hours is concerning. Poor feeding can also mean a decreased interest or sluggish sucking at times when the baby should be hungry. *If poor feeding persists for two or more feedings, please call our office.*

Droopiness

Droopiness frequently accompanies poor feeding, but can occur by itself. Instead of being active or alert, the baby may seem less strong and vigorous. *If limpness or lack of alertness occur over several hours, please call our office.*

Jaundice

Although many babies get a slight yellowish tinge to the skin, this ordinarily disappears in the first week of life. Assess the true color of the baby's skin by pressing gently on the baby's chest or back. While the blood is blanched out, note the color of the skin. A truly jaundiced baby will have a noticeable yellow hue. Yellowness in the eyes is not a good indicator of the degree of jaundice. *If you are concerned about the baby's color, please call our office.*

Irritability

Babies often have a certain time of day when they are fussier (usually in the evening). It is unusual for a newborn baby to cry continuously for several hours without stopping. Even though fussy, most babies can be temporarily calmed. True irritability occurs when a baby cannot be consoled by rocking or holding, or is fussy with any movement. *If your baby is irritable, please call our office.*

Pimples and Pustules

The baby may have pimples on the face, neck and shoulders during the first weeks of life.

Pimples or blisters in the diaper area, near the base of the umbilical cord, or on arms or legs are not normal. True pimples and pustules are different from erythema toxicum, a normal newborn rash that looks like flea bites and comes and goes. *If you see pimples and pustules, please call our office.*

Fever

If your baby feels hot and is not overdressed, check his or her temperature rectally. *If the temperature is over 100 degrees (or less than 97.5 degrees), please call our office.* Tell the person you talk to the temperature you measured and how you took that temperature.