

Jaundice in newborn babies under 28 days

Information for the public

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About this information

NICE quality standards help to improve key areas of health or social care so that people are offered the best care available.

This information explains the care and support described in [NICE quality standard 57](#) on neonatal jaundice.

Neonatal jaundice

The quality standard for neonatal jaundice is made up of 3 statements that describe high-quality care for babies with jaundice. These statements set out the quality of care they should receive.

1. Parents or carers of newborn babies have a discussion with healthcare professionals and are given written information about jaundice within 24 hours of the baby being born. This includes information about how to check whether the baby might have jaundice, as well as who to contact if they are concerned.
2. Babies with suspected jaundice who are more than 24 hours old have their bilirubin level measured within 6 hours of the possible jaundice being noted (bilirubin is the substance that causes the yellow colour seen in jaundice). This may be done by a healthcare professional at the baby's home, but it may need to be done at a hospital.
3. Babies with high levels of bilirubin receive treatment according to tables or charts that tell the healthcare team whether to start (or not start) treatment. The information used when making

decisions about when to start treatment includes how high the baby's bilirubin level is, the age of the baby when the bilirubin was measured, and the baby's maturity at the time of birth (that is, how many weeks of pregnancy they were born after).

Your baby's care

Your baby's care team should explain any treatment, care or support that should be offered so that you can decide together what is best for your baby.

We also have more information on the NICE website about [using health and social care services](#).

More information on neonatal jaundice

NICE guidance (advice) on the following topics was used to develop this quality standard:

- [neonatal jaundice](#)
- [postnatal care](#).

Sources of advice and support for families and carers

- Bliss – the special care baby charity, 0500 618 140
www.bliss.org.uk
- Breastfeeding Network, 0300 100 0210; National Breastfeeding Helpline, 0300 100 0212
www.breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk
- Children's Liver Disease Foundation, 0121 212 3839
www.childliverdisease.org
- La Leche League, 0845 120 2918
www.laleche.org.uk
- NCT, 0300 330 0700
www.nct.org.uk

You can also go to [NHS Choices](#) for more information about health and social care.

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

A number of organisations who share NICE's commitment to improving quality in this area formally support this quality standard. They may also be able to provide advice and support. For a list of these organisations see the [neonatal jaundice quality standard](#) on the NICE website.

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Accreditation

