



When to Visit or Call Baby's Care Provider (Well Baby versus Sick Baby)

Most care providers will want to see your baby 2 to 3 days after leaving the hospital, then at 1 to 2 weeks of age, and then at regularly scheduled appointments. Your care provider will discuss this schedule with you. These visits allow your care provider to get to know your baby and give you the information you need to care for your baby.

During these visits

- Baby's weight, height and head circumference is measured to keep track of his/her growth.
- A full physical exam is done and immunizations are given according to a schedule that is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Immunizations may be done by the care provider or at a public health clinic.
- Your physician will discuss many topics about your child's well-being (diet, sleep, safety, etc.).
- Your questions and concerns also should be addressed. Before an appointment, write down your questions and anything else you want to tell the care provider. (Remember that no one knows your baby as well as you do.) If you do not understand something the care provider tells you, ask for a clearer explanation.

When to call your baby's care provider

When your baby is not acting as he/she usually does, it can be frightening. Sometimes, it's hard to know when to call the care provider, especially for new parents. Trust your own instincts. If you feel something is "not right," make the call. Here are some guidelines for when to call:

- Bleeding or foul-smelling drainage from around the navel
- Temperature above 99° F axillary (under the arm) or 100.4° F rectally
- Fewer than 6 wet diapers in 24 hours after the fifth day
- Diarrhea (long bouts of watery stools)
- Constipation (straining to pass stool that look like pellets)
- Loss of appetite

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- Feeding problems, especially forceful vomiting
- Skin rash with drainage, red peeling skin and/or excessive swelling
- Skin color changes: yellow (jaundice), pale or blue (cyanosis)
- Changes in activity, listlessness, poor muscle tone, tremors, high-pitched or screaming-type cry (different from baby's normal cry)
- Any drainage from ears or yellow drainage from eyes
- Increased bleeding or pus-like drainage from circumcision
- Difficult or rapid breathing



Before calling the care provider

- Write down all of your concerns about your baby
- Take your baby's temperature
- Have the name and phone number of your pharmacy handy
- Have paper and pencil ready to write down any instructions



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