

Care for all babies

Offer parents/carers information about neonatal jaundice

Identify babies as being more likely to develop significant hyperbilirubinaemia if they have any of the following factors:

- gestational age under 38 weeks
- a previous sibling with neonatal jaundice requiring phototherapy
- mother's intention to breastfeed exclusively
- visible jaundice in the first 24 hours

Does baby have suspected or obvious jaundice in the first 24 hours?

Does baby have any other factors?

- gestational age under 38 weeks
- a previous sibling with neonatal jaundice requiring phototherapy
- mother's intention to breastfeed exclusively

Examine the baby for jaundice at every opportunity, especially in the first 72 hours

Does baby have visible jaundice?

Routine care

Care for babies with signs of acute bilirubin encephalopathy

Check for signs of acute bilirubin encephalopathy

Go to exchange transfusion pathway

Ensure adequate support is offered to all women who intend to breastfeed exclusively³

Examine for jaundice at every opportunity, especially in first 72 hours

The threshold table is on the foldout page at the front of this quick reference guide. The treatment threshold graphs are available in a separate file from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG98

Ensure babies receive an additional visual inspection by a healthcare professional within 48 hours

Additional care for babies who are more likely to develop hyperbilirubinaemia

Urgent additional care for babies with jaundice in the first 24 hours

Measure and record serum bilirubin level within 2 hours

Continue to measure the serum bilirubin level every 6 hours until the level is both:

- below the treatment threshold
- stable and/or falling

Arrange a referral to ensure that an urgent medical review is conducted (as soon as possible and within 6 hours) to exclude pathological causes of jaundice

Manage hyperbilirubinaemia
Interpret results using threshold table and treatment threshold graphs

Monitor bilirubin levels

Treat using phototherapy

Go to phototherapy pathway

Treat using exchange transfusion

Go to exchange transfusion pathway

³ Refer to 'Routine postnatal care of women and their babies' (NICE clinical guideline 37) for information on breastfeeding support.