

# Prolonged jaundice service

**Your baby was referred to us because he/she is still jaundiced at the age of 21 days. This leaflet explains how we will make the assessment for your baby.**

**If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your midwife.**

## What is prolonged jaundice?

Jaundice is a yellow colouration of the skin and whites of the eyes that is common in newborn babies. It should usually disappear by the time a baby is two weeks old.

Prolonged jaundice is the term used when jaundice persists beyond three weeks of age.

## Why does my baby need an assessment?

The most common type of prolonged jaundice is so called 'breast milk jaundice'. This is a very common and harmless jaundice associated with breastfeeding and it resolves spontaneously by the age of three months.

Unfortunately there are other possible causes that may need to be treated (for example an infection or liver disease). It is therefore very important that we find out why your baby's jaundice is prolonged.

## What happens next?

Your midwife has sent us all necessary details about your baby including information on how he/she is feeding and gaining weight and what colour his/her stool and urine are. The midwife has also given you a completed blood request form.

### **Blood tests**

Take your baby for the blood test as soon as possible after the referral, ideally within the next 24-72 hours.

Blood test centre is located on level 0 (Starfish zone) at the Evelina London Children's Hospital and the opening hours are 8.30am-5.45pm, Monday to Friday. Tel 020 7188 4778.

## How will I find out about the blood tests results?

A neonatal doctor (a doctor who specialises in looking after babies) will review the information received from your midwife and the blood tests results, and will decide if your baby needs to be seen in hospital.

If the doctors think your baby has so called 'breast milk jaundice' then we don't need to see your baby in hospital and we will inform you about it via text message (if you agree) or a phone call. We will also send you a letter with the summary of the assessment.

If the reason for your baby's jaundice is unclear or the jaundice is very high we will contact you to arrange a hospital appointment.

## Will my baby need treatment?

Breast milk jaundice doesn't require treatment. It is harmless and disappears by three months of age. You should continue to breastfeed your baby.

If we ask you to bring your baby to a hospital appointment to see a doctor, we may need to perform further tests to try to look for causes other than breast milk jaundice. If we identify a different cause for your baby's jaundice we may have to treat that cause. This will be explained to you during your appointment with the neonatal doctor.

## Contact us

Prolonged Jaundice Service is part of Children Services and is run by the Neonatal Department. We accept electronic referrals from our midwifery colleagues.

t: 020 7188 4045

e: [prolongedjaundiceservice@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:prolongedjaundiceservice@gstt.nhs.uk)

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets)

### Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

t: 020 7188 3003 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday      e: [letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk)

### Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS)      e: [pals@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk)

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints)      e: [complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk)

### Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch:

t: 020 7188 8815      e: [languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk)

### NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

### NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, and to become a member:

t: 0800 731 0319      e: [members@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:members@gstt.nhs.uk)      w: [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership)

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