

Prolonged Jaundice Service

Your baby was referred to us because they are still jaundiced at the age of 21 days (three weeks). This leaflet explains how we will make the assessment for your baby. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to 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 14 days (two weeks) old.

Prolonged jaundice is when jaundice continues longer than three weeks of age.

Why does my baby need an assessment?

The most common type of prolonged jaundice is breast milk jaundice. This is a very common and harmless jaundice, associated with breastfeeding, and it gets better on its own 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). So it is very important that we find out why your baby's jaundice is prolonged.

What happens next?

Your midwife has sent us all the necessary details about your baby, including information on how they are feeding and gaining weight, and what colour their stool (poo) and urine (wee) 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 1-3 days. The Blood Test Centre is on the ground floor, South Wing, St Thomas' Hospital, Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5.30pm, **t:** 020 7188 4778.

How will I find out about the blood tests results?

A neonatal (specialises in looking after babies) doctor 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 breast milk jaundice, we don't need to see your baby in hospital and we will tell you 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, and 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 do further tests to look for causes other than breast milk jaundice. If we find a different reason for your baby's jaundice we may have to treat that. This will be explained to you during your appointment with the neonatal doctor.

Contact us

The 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

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **w:** 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

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

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** 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

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

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