

Newborn warning signs

A print-ready fact sheet for clinics, classrooms and community groups.

Category	Child health
Translations	19 languages
Print format	A5 card
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The first 28 days carry the highest risk of any period in childhood. A newborn deteriorates quickly and often without obvious distress, so the signs below are worth knowing by heart.

What to do

- Keep the baby warm, dry and skin-to-skin where possible.
- Feed on demand, day and night. A newborn that will not feed is a newborn in trouble.
- Keep the cord stump clean and dry, and put nothing on it.

Signs that mean go to a clinic

- Not feeding, or feeding much less than before.
- Fast or laboured breathing, or grunting with each breath.
- Cold to touch, or hot to touch.
- Yellow colouring of the skin or eyes in the first 24 hours.
- Fits, or unusual stiffness or floppiness.
- Redness, swelling or discharge around the cord.

Using this sheet

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