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SICK NEWBORN: SUBTLE SYMPTOMS

A newborn is a baby less than 1 month old. He or she mainly eats, sleeps, cries a little, and needs a lot of love and his or her diapers changed frequently. If a newborn is ill, the symptoms can be subtle. Also, an ill newborn can very quickly get much sicker. If a newborn is sick at all, the illness can be serious.

When should I call my child's health care provider

Call IMMEDIATELY if:

- Your baby is less than 1 month old and sick in any way (for example, with a cough or diarrhea or looks pale).
- Your newborn's appetite or suck becomes poor.
- Your newborn sleeps excessively--for instance, past feeding times.
- Your newborn cries excessively.
- Your newborn develops a fever over 100.4°F (38°C) measured rectally, or over 99°F (37.2°C) measured in the armpit. *
- Your newborn's temperature drops below 96.8°F (36°C) measured rectally, or 95.4°F (35.5°C) measured in the armpit. *
- You have other urgent questions.

* In general, do not take an infant's temperature unless he or she feels hot or looks sick.