

Paediatric department

Prolonged jaundice clinic for babies

This leaflet is for parents whose baby has been referred by their GP or midwife to our Prolonged Jaundice Clinic. Our clinic is for babies who are still jaundiced after 2 weeks of age (or 3 weeks if they are born prematurely). This leaflet will tell you what to expect at the clinic.

Who needs to be seen in a Prolonged Jaundice Clinic?

Lots of babies have jaundice (a yellow tinge to their skin and eyes) in their first week or two of life. This should gradually disappear with time. However, if your baby looks jaundiced after 2 weeks (term babies) or 3 weeks (preterm babies/babies born before 37 weeks' gestation), they will be referred for Paediatric assessment by your GP to rule out other causes.

A small number of babies have a problem with their liver or their blood which is causing them to still look jaundiced. Most babies will be completely healthy, but we do some tests to rule out any problems.

What if my baby is still jaundiced and has not been referred to the clinic?

If you think that your baby looks jaundiced and is 14 days of age or older.

→ Please immediately contact your GP to urgently refer your baby to the Prolonged Jaundice Clinic at Kingston Hospital. This is because it is very important that we see babies with prolonged jaundice, before 5 weeks of age.

What to expect at the clinic

Our prolonged jaundice clinics are run by an experienced paediatric nurse or doctor and are held in our Children's Outpatients Department.

You will be asked questions about:

- Your pregnancy and delivery.
- Mum's blood group.
- Baby's birth weight and current weight.
- How your baby is feeding.
- The colour of your baby's wee (urine) and poo (stool).
- Whether you have had the results from your baby's day five new-born screening which will have been done by your midwife (please bring the results letter if you have already received it).
- The ethnic background of both parents. This may be relevant for certain conditions, for example, G6PD, which is a genetic blood disorder.

Your baby will be weighed and examined by the doctor or nurse running the clinic.

Your baby will have blood tests to check the jaundice level (the bilirubin) and other tests to check the liver function, thyroid function, blood group and if any antibodies are present. The blood can be taken from a baby's heel or from a vein. These blood results may take up to a week to come back. You may need to catch a urine sample for testing too.

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What happens if the test results are abnormal?

Most babies do not need treatment for their jaundice at this stage – the majority of results are normal, and we can reassure parents that all is well.

However, if any of the test results are abnormal, your baby may need extra blood tests or other investigations such as a liver ultrasound scan. The Paediatric team will keep you informed of the results throughout.

If you have not been given your child's blood results within a week of their test, please contact the Paediatric Admin Team

If the results of any further tests needed are still abnormal, your baby may need to be discussed with the Paediatric Liver Team at Kings College Hospital or referred for further tests, and this would be discussed with you at the time.

For more information

Healthier Together Website

Information on common childhood conditions (including jaundice)

<https://what0-18.nhs.uk/pregnant-women/worried-your-baby-unwell-under-3-months-2/jaundice>

NHS Conditions website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/jaundice-newborn/>

How to contact us:

Paediatric Department Administration Team:

Tel: 020 8934 6403

Monday to Friday 9-5pm



KINGSTON HOSPITAL PAEDIATRICS:
FROM BIRTH - 18 YEARS

Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS)

PALS can provide information, advice and support to patients and relatives and will listen to and act on your concerns, suggestions or queries.

020 8934 3993

khft.pals@nhs.net

Accessible information

We are actively working to make our patient information easier to read and accessible in a range of formats. If you would like this information in large print, audio or electronic format please speak to a member of staff in the department. If you need a different format, please let us know and we will do our best to meet your request

Pastoral & Spiritual Support Services

We offer a multi-cultural approach serving people of all faiths and life philosophies. A Duty Chaplain is available 24/7. You can request to speak to a Church of England or Roman Catholic Priest, the Rabbi or Imam.

Please call the hospital switchboard on 020 8546 7711 and ask to speak to the Duty Chaplain.

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