Unsettled baby under 3 months pathway

Clinical support tool for community pharmacists

Clinical findings | Green – low risk | Amber – intermediate risk | Red – high risk
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**Behaviour** | • Wakes for feeds as normal  
• Settled for periods of time  
• Strong normal cry | • Sleepy or not consistently waking for feeds | • Unable to wake  
• Persistently unable to settle  
• Clinical concerns about nature of cry (weak, high pitched or continuous)

**Tone** | • Normal | | • Stiff for prolonged periods or has any evidence of a seizure  
• Floppy

**Respiratory** | • Normal pattern and rate | | • Abnormal/fast breathing

**Skin** | • Normal skin colour  
• Warm extremities | | • Pale / mottled / blue

**Hydration** | • Plenty of wet nappies  
• Signs of dehydration ie mouth dry, sunken fontanelle | • Wet nappies reduced  
• Signs of dehydration ie mouth dry, sunken fontanelle | • Has a temperature of ≥ 38°C  
• Rash that does not disappear with pressure

**Other** | • No amber features | • Additional parent/carer concerns | |  

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**Green Action**

Provide “Crying baby under 3 months” safety netting advice  
Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/advice given  
Always consider safeguarding issues  
Consider video consultation to offer further reassurance

**Amber Action**

Refer to primary care for review.

**Red Action**

Refer immediately to emergency care – consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity etc.