



Differential Diagnosis

- Sepsis / Meningitis
- Non-accidental injury (fracture, shaken baby)
- Raised intracranial pressure
- Incarcerated inguinal hernia
- Hair tourniquet
- Corneal abrasion

Clinical Assessment

- Identify and treat any medical cause
- Screen for postnatal depression
- Consider any potential safeguarding issues
- Educate and reassure parents where appropriate
- Signpost parents to additional resources and support as needed (incl. HV / Early Help)

RED FLAGS

- Fever
- Unwell / altered responsiveness
- Bulging fontanelle / rapidly rising head circumference
- Frequent forceful (projectile) vomits
- Bile-stained vomit
- Blood in vomit or stool
- New late-onset vomiting (> 6 months)
- Abdominal distension
- Faltering growth
- Severe atopic eczema
- Seizures / neurodisability
- Parental postnatal depression
- Safeguarding concerns, e.g. bruising in non-mobile infant, suspected shaken baby

Best fit cluster of symptoms with no red flags

- Increases in early weeks of life
- Peaks at 6-8 weeks
- Improves by 3-4 months of age
- Worse late afternoon/evening (but can occur at anytime)
- Lasts several hours
- No medical red flags

Normal Crying

- Screen for postnatal depression
- Educate and reassure parents where appropriate
- Signpost parents to additional resources and support as needed (incl. HV / Early Help)
- [nhs.uk/conditions/baby/caring-for-a-newborn/soothing-a-crying-baby](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/caring-for-a-newborn/soothing-a-crying-baby)

- Significant feeding difficulties day and night
- Onset of symptoms with infant formula use
- Nasal congestion
- Frequent vomiting / milk aversion
- Symptoms not responsive to anti-reflux treatment
- Diarrhoea with minor blood or mucus
- May be slow weight gain
- Widespread eczema

Cow's Milk Protein Allergy (CMPA)

Breastfed

Trial of Maternal strict milk free diet

Formula Fed

- Trial of Extensively Hydrolysed Formula (EHF) e.g. Nutramigen LGG (should be prescribed)
- And milk free diet if started solids

- Persistent diarrhoea
- Wind
- Recent gastroenteritis
- No atopy/FH of atopy

Transient Lactose Intolerance

Breastfed

Breastfeeding assessment by trained professional

Formula Fed

- Trial of Extensively Hydrolysed Formula (EHF) e.g. Nutramigen LGG (should be prescribed)
- And milk free diet if started solid

- Vomiting only
- Discomfort during/after feeds
- Worse when laid flat, prefers to be upright
- Satisfactory weight gain

Gastro-oesophageal reflux

Breastfed

Breastfeeding assessment by trained professional

Formula Fed

1. Keep upright during and after feeds
2. Reduce feed volumes if excessive (> 150ml/kg/day)
3. Offer smaller volume feeds more frequently

- Follow clinical pathways for the HT NENC infant feeding guidelines
- Provide relevant literature/weblinks