

LATE PRETERM HYPOGLYCEMIA

low blood sugar



Your Late Preterm Newborn

Although your baby may appear full-term, they are actually premature, having arrived three to six weeks before your due date. This makes your baby a late preterm infant. Because of this early arrival, your baby may face challenges. Our goal is to keep your baby with you as much as possible. Here is some information to help you understand what to expect while in the hospital and how you can best support your baby.

In the Delivery Room



Keep baby warm

Hold your baby skin to skin.



First feeding

Feed your baby within the first hour of life to prevent low blood sugar.



Manage low blood sugar

If needed, we may provide extra breast milk, sugar gel, or formula.

Neonatal Hypoglycemia

Common Symptoms



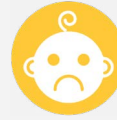
Poor feeding and/or vomiting



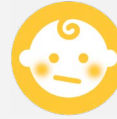
Trouble breathing



Low body temperature



Jitteriness, grunting, or irritability



Blueish or pale skin color



Difficulty waking



Seizures

Mother/Baby Area



Vital Signs Checks

The nurse will check your baby's temperature, pulse, breathing, and blood sugar before each feeding for at least 24 hours.



Skin-to-Skin

Keep your baby skin-to-skin as much as possible while you are awake to keep them warm.



Feeding

Feed your baby on demand, no longer than three hours between feeds, whether breast or bottle.

Breastfeeding



Hand express or pump breast milk after feeding or every 2-3 hours if separated from your baby. Initially, hand expression often works better than pumping. This will help establish your milk supply sooner. Don't worry if you don't get more than a few drops at first! This can be normal. The more you do it, the sooner you will start making more milk. Work with your medical team on this.



Feeding Support

Late preterm babies may not feed well at first. There are many techniques to get an infant to eat, which might include giving them extra milk.



Care Plan

Work with your care team to create a personalized feeding care plan.



Tracking

Work with your care team to track how much your baby is eating, wetting diapers, and pooping.



Weight

It is normal for babies to lose some weight at first. Your baby will be weighed to ensure they do not lose too much.

If your baby has trouble breathing or low blood sugar, we may need to take them to the Special Care Nursery or the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for closer observation, where they may need a feeding tube or IV fluids.

When Your Baby is Ready to Go Home

Your baby must be at least **48 hours old** and:



Feeds well for the last 24 hours with a home feeding plan.



Has a normal jaundice lab test.



Has normal breathing, diaper output, and temperature for at least 24 hours.



Passes the car seat challenge test.



Has a scheduled follow-up appointment with your pediatrician 1-2 days after discharge.

If you have any questions, contact a member of your baby's health care team.

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