Meningitis and septicaemia symptoms in babies: what to watch for

Early symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia can be like other childhood illnesses, but a baby will usually get ill quickly and get worse fast.

Remember:
- Check your baby often.
- Symptoms can appear in any order.
- Not every baby will get all symptoms.
- Don’t wait for a rash to appear: a very ill baby needs medical help even if there are only a few spots or no rash.
- If you think your baby has meningitis or septicaemia, get medical help immediately.
- Tell the health professional you speak to you are worried it could be meningitis or septicaemia.
- You know your baby best, so always trust your instincts.

More on what to look for in babies, including our red and amber guidance: meningitis.org/meningitis/check-symptoms/babies

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