

Not all babies look the same

Assessment of Apgar scores, cyanosis and jaundice is difficult in all ethnicities, particularly in babies with darker skin.



HISTORICALLY SKIN COLOUR HAS BEEN USED TO ASSESS JAUNDICE AND CYANOSIS BUT EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THIS IS NOT ACCURATE



PROFESSIONALS CAN BE POOR AT DETECTING COLOUR VISUALLY



LISTEN TO AND TAKE PARENTAL CONCERNS SERIOUSLY

Cyanosis



Use pulse oximetry if you suspect Cyanosis. It is more reliable than looking at the skin.

Pink and blue on darker skin is not always easy to see

Pink or blue may be visible around/inside the mouth

Look for pink hands and soles of feet

Jaundice

Awareness of differences in babies from diverse ethnic backgrounds is important.



Using a bilirubinometer to measure jaundice is recommended



Yellow skin is not always easy to see



Look for yellow in the eyes



Check mouth and gums