



Late Preterm (Near-Term) Infants

- Full-term pregnancy lasts about 40 weeks.
- Your baby is full term if born at 37 weeks or later.
- Babies born before 37 weeks are premature babies or *preemies*.
- Babies born between 34 and 36 weeks of pregnancy are late-term or near-term babies. They weigh between 4½ to 6 pounds.
- These babies are usually healthy but may have problems such as:
 - Breathing
 - Eating
 - Feeding slowly
 - Needing to eat more often.
 - Needing to sleep more.
 - Sleeping through a meal, and you need to wake them up.
 - Cannot stay warm.
- Call your baby's doctor:
 - If your baby refuses to eat or doesn't eat right.
 - If you need someone to give you advice when you are breastfeeding.
 - If your baby looks yellow (jaundice). Call right away for this.
 - If you think your baby is not feeling well.
 - To make an appointment for your baby 1 or 2 days after the baby leaves the hospital.
- Wake your baby after 3 to 4 hours for a feeding to make sure the baby gets good nutrition.
- All babies should be placed on their backs to sleep.
- Late preterm babies may not have the body fat it takes to stay warm.
- Keep all babies away from drafts.



- Keep room temperature between 68° to 70°F.
- Add 1 more layer of clothing than you would usually put on the baby.

Infection is also a concern with late preterm babies. Their immune systems are not completely developed.

- Look for signs of infection such as high fever or problems breathing.
- Call your baby's doctor right away.