When should I call the doctor?

Call your doctor if your baby has any of the following:

- Seems sleepier than usual
- Is pale
- Makes much less urine than usual — a sign of dehydration
- Is feeding much less than usual
- Is breathing fast, especially if using extra muscles or wheezing
- If you are unable to clear the mucus
- A high fever — 100.4° if your baby is less than 2 months old or 102.2° if your baby is over 2 months old
- Any time you have a concern that things just aren’t right.

When should I go to the Emergency Department?

Seek emergency care if your baby:

- Is blue at the fingertips or around the lips
- Has increased difficulty breathing or worsening cough
- Shows signs of fatigue or lethargy — difficulty waking up, confusion, or lack of interest in surroundings
- Any time you feel your baby needs immediate help.

When should I go to the Bronchiolitis Clinic?

Bring your child to the clinic any time you feel that you cannot clear the mucus at home. The clinic is open 24 hours every day. Call 962-8701 to set up a time with the respiratory therapist. The therapist should be able to see you within about 30 minutes.

What to expect when you visit the clinic

Go to the Wesley Emergency Department entrance located at the northeast corner of Central and Hillside Streets or the Wesley West Emergency Department located at the northeast corner of 13th St. and Tyler Road. Tell the nurse at the reception desk that you are here for the Bronchiolitis Clinic. The nurse will briefly assess whether your baby needs immediate care in the Emergency Department or will direct you to the Emergency Department admissions desk. After you check in at admissions, a respiratory therapist will meet you and your baby and take you to an exam room.

Do not feed your child while waiting for the respiratory therapist.

Your baby will be assessed by the respiratory therapist, and the baby’s nose will be cleared of mucus using suction and saline. Then your baby will be reassessed.

If the assessment indicates that your baby may not be handling this illness very well, the respiratory therapist may call your doctor. If the assessment indicates that your baby is very ill, the respiratory therapist may ask an emergency doctor to evaluate your baby.

If an emergency doctor evaluates your baby, you will be charged for an emergency room visit as well as for the visit to the Clinic. The emergency doctor may determine that your baby needs to be admitted to the hospital for treatment that cannot be provided in the Clinic or in the emergency room.

Call the Clinic at 962-8701.
Open 24 hours every day.
Located at Wesley Medical Center Emergency Department
550 N. Hillside
(northeast corner of Central and Hillside Streets)

Also at Wesley West Emergency Department
8714 W. 13th St. N.
(northeast corner of 13th St. and Tyler Road)
Has your baby been diagnosed with bronchiolitis?

Bronchiolitis can be a very frustrating illness for you and your baby. The nasal mucus can make it hard for your baby to breathe. Your baby feels tired and cranky but can’t sleep well and can have a hard time eating and drinking.

Thousands of babies every year are admitted to the hospital to keep the mucus cleaned out, but many parents feel that if they had a stronger suction device at home their baby wouldn’t have to stay in the hospital.

We have created a clinic so that you can get your baby’s nose cleared using the hospital’s powerful equipment, but you can keep your baby at home most of the time, where your baby and you are most comfortable.

What is bronchiolitis?

Bronchiolitis is an infection of the lower airways and is caused by a virus. The infection irritates the lower airways and causes excess mucus production and swelling of the airways.

What are the symptoms?

Initial symptoms can include a stuffy or runny nose, mild cough and low fever. After a couple of days the cough gets worse and babies can develop a wheeze, like a whistling sound, when they breathe. Breathing can become difficult, and the mucus can become very thick. Very young babies can have difficulty clearing this mucus on their own. Some babies need hospital admission or even intensive care. The symptoms begin to clear after seven to 10 days, but the cough can last for several weeks as the airways heal. Sleeping and eating routines may not return to normal for four to seven days.

What medicine can help?

Prescription medication is not usually helpful for bronchiolitis. Over-the-counter medications that reduce fever can help your baby feel more comfortable.

What can I do to help my baby at home?

Make sure your baby gets plenty of fluids. Give the fluids in smaller amounts on a more frequent feeding schedule. Using a cool mist humidifier to moisten the air will help loosen the mucus. Clean the humidifier daily to help prevent mold growth. Use nasal saline drops and a bulb or battery-operated nasal suction device to help clear your baby’s nose of mucus. The baby will feed better if the nose is clear. After each use, be sure to clean the bulb or device carefully with soap and hot water to eliminate germs.

How did my baby get bronchiolitis?

Bronchiolitis is spread through the air and on surfaces. An older person can have the virus, but it appears more like a cold. Babies who are around people with cold symptoms can become infected. Careful handwashing is the best protection against infection. Babies who are in daycare and babies exposed to cigarette smoke may be more likely to get the infection.

What are the symptoms?

Initial symptoms can include a stuffy or runny nose, mild cough and low fever. After a couple of days the cough gets worse and babies can develop a wheeze, like a whistling sound, when they breathe. Breathing can become difficult, and the mucus can become very thick. Very young babies can have difficulty clearing this mucus on their own. Some babies need hospital admission or even intensive care. The symptoms begin to clear after seven to 10 days, but the cough can last for several weeks as the airways heal. Sleeping and eating routines may not return to normal for four to seven days.

What medicine can help?

Prescription medication is not usually helpful for bronchiolitis. Over-the-counter medications that reduce fever can help your baby feel more comfortable.

What can I do to help my baby at home?

Make sure your baby gets plenty of fluids. Give the fluids in smaller amounts on a more frequent feeding schedule. Using a cool mist humidifier to moisten the air will help loosen the mucus. Clean the humidifier daily to help prevent mold growth. Use nasal saline drops and a bulb or battery-operated nasal suction device to help clear your baby’s nose of mucus. The baby will feed better if the nose is clear. After each use, be sure to clean the bulb or device carefully with soap and hot water to eliminate germs.

How did my baby get bronchiolitis?

Bronchiolitis is spread through the air and on surfaces. An older person can have the virus, but it appears more like a cold. Babies who are around people with cold symptoms can become infected. Careful handwashing is the best protection against infection. Babies who are in daycare and babies exposed to cigarette smoke may be more likely to get the infection.