

A NOTE FOR PARENTS: G6PD (a blood disorder)

Your baby ..... is suffering from an inherited blood disorder because of a lack of something in the blood called G6PD (this stands for **Glucose -6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase**). This problem occurs mostly in Asian, Mediterranean, African and some South Pacific peoples. It is a form of anaemia which affects mainly males but females can also be affected.

There is no need to worry, this will not be a big problem for your infant unless he is affected by certain medications, food or occasionally infections. Make sure your family doctor knows your child has G6PD; this is important so that your doctor will choose the right medications if your child is **ill**. In particular, you should keep your child away from naphthalene (used in some dyes and moth balls) and do not give him/her **fava** beans to eat.

If you are breastfeeding, you must also not eat fava beans, if you do eat them your baby is very likely to get anaemia (when the red blood cells "break down") in two to three days. The symptoms are paleness, slight jaundice (yellowing of the skin), or urine that is red or very dark. If you notice these signs in your baby you must take him to a doctor immediately.

If you need further information in your own language ask the hospital to book an interpreter for your child's next appointment or telephone the **Health Care Interpreter Service** yourself:

**Sydney**            **516 6999**  
**North Shore** **438 7560**  
**Parramatta**      **633 5444**  
**Newcastle**      **(049) 26 3533**  
**Wollongong**     **(042) 74 4211**

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