

# Jaundice in newborn babies under 28 days (NICE clinical guideline [CG98](#)) 2016 update

## Threshold table

Consensus-based bilirubin thresholds for management of babies 38 weeks or more gestational age with hyperbilirubinaemia

Age (hours)	Bilirubin measurement (micromol/litre)	
0	> 100	> 100
6	> 125	> 150
12	> 150	> 200
18	> 175	> 250
24	> 200	> 300
30	> 212	> 350
36	> 225	> 400
42	> 237	> 450
48	> 250	> 450
54	> 262	> 450
60	> 275	> 450
66	> 287	> 450
72	> 300	> 450
78	> 312	> 450
84	> 325	> 450
90	> 337	> 450
96+	> 350	> 450
<b>Action</b>	<b>Start phototherapy</b>	<b>Perform an exchange transfusion unless the bilirubin level falls below threshold while the treatment is being prepared</b>

In babies who are clinically well, have a gestational age of 38 weeks or more and are more than 24 hours old, and who have a bilirubin level that is below the phototherapy threshold but within 50 micromol/litre of the threshold (see the [threshold table](#) and the [treatment threshold graphs](#)), repeat bilirubin measurement as follows:

- within 18 hours for babies with risk factors for neonatal jaundice (those with a sibling who had neonatal jaundice that needed phototherapy or a mother who intends to exclusively breastfeed)
- within 24 hours for babies without risk factors. **[new 2016]**

In babies who are clinically well, have a gestational age of 38 weeks or more and are more than 24 hours old, and who have a bilirubin level that is below the phototherapy threshold by more than 50 micromol/litre do not routinely repeat bilirubin measurement. **[new 2016]**

Do not use phototherapy in babies whose bilirubin does not exceed the phototherapy threshold levels **[2010]**

During phototherapy:

- repeat serum bilirubin measurement 4–6 hours after initiating phototherapy
- repeat serum bilirubin measurement every 6–12 hours when the serum bilirubin level is stable or falling. **[2010]**

Stop phototherapy once serum bilirubin has fallen to a level at least 50 micromol/litre below the phototherapy threshold. **[2010]**

Check for rebound of significant hyperbilirubinaemia with a repeat serum bilirubin measurement 12–18 hours after stopping phototherapy. Babies do not necessarily have to remain in hospital for this to be done. **[2010]**