



John Dempsey Hospital
The University of Connecticut Health Center
Department of Nursing
NICU/NBN/SCN

CAFFEINE

USE OF CAFFEINE:

Caffeine is used to make the baby's breathing more even and regular.

CALL THE DOCTOR IF:

1. Your baby spits up more than is usual or starts vomiting.
2. Your baby is more irritable and fussy and cannot be calmed in the usual manner.
3. Your baby's heartbeat seems fast or if you feel that it beats strongly when the baby lies against you.
4. Your baby has trouble breathing.
5. Your baby has unusual body or muscle movements.
6. Your baby has a decrease or increase in the number of wet diapers in a day.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Review the 2 sections titled "**Safety**" and "**How to Use the Medicine**" in your **General Instructions for Giving Your Baby's Oral Medicine** hand out.
2. Caffeine is given once a day. It should be given at about the same time every day – morning is best.
3. The doctor may have a blood test called a "caffeine level" done. This tells the doctor if the baby has enough medicine in the body or if the dose needs to be changed because the baby is growing.
4. If you forget to give the dose at the usual time and it is less than 8 hours overdue, give the day's dose and keep on schedule the next day. If the dose is more than 8 hours overdue, give the dose and change the scheduled time.