

**Emergency Management Protocol for:  
Carnitine uptake defect (CUD) Screening**  
Newborn Screening Program of the Oklahoma State Department of Health

**Evaluation & Initial Management Guidelines for High Risk CUD Screen Results**

1. Contact the family by COB (close of business) & initiate *Feeding Precautions* (listed below).
2. Initiate *Home Care Precautions* (listed below) by COB.
3. History and Physical Exam within 8 hours to assess:
  - Family history of CUD (family history of SIDS or affected siblings, aunts, uncles etc.)
  - Assess specifically for signs and symptoms of metabolic crisis (acidosis):
    - Lethargy
    - Hypotonia
    - Hypoglycemia in acute phases
    - Hepatomegaly
    - Cardiac decompensation
    - Vomiting
    - 'Reye' like syndrome
4. If symptomatic, immediate phone consultation with a metabolic specialist regarding treatment and clinical management is required.
5. IV glucose therapy is indicated if infant has signs & symptoms of metabolic crisis.
6. If not symptomatic, schedule diagnostic workup with metabolic specialist within 24 to 48 hours.

***Feeding Precautions***

Initiate **feeding precautions** by close of business by giving the parents the following instructions:

1. Wake baby and feed every 3 hours,
2. Use an alarm clock to ensure feedings occur routinely throughout the day and night,
3. Avoid fasting (defined as more than 3 to 4 hours without a feeding),
4. Contact doctor if baby is not tolerating feedings or becomes ill,
5. Failure to feed your baby every 3 hours could result in possible **coma or death**, and
6. Continue feeding precautions until instructed to stop by metabolic specialist.

***Home Care Precautions***

Initiate **home care precautions** by close of business by giving the parents the following instructions:

1. Seek medical attention immediately if baby has concerning symptoms including excessive sleeping, poor feeding, abnormal breathing, fever, decreased urination or any minor illness.
2. Seek medical attention immediately if baby is feeding poorly. NOTE: This may be difficult to assess with breast-feeding infants. If there is any concern of poor feeding or poor milk flow, bottle supplementation must be used. Mother should be encouraged to pump and bottle-feed (breast milk or formula) until appointment with metabolic specialist is achieved.
3. Contact information for the metabolic specialist (phone numbers listed below).
4. If baby is difficult to arouse or awaken call 911.

**Description**

The incidence of CUD is approximately 1:100,000, but is more common in people from Japan. CUD is caused by a defect in the carnitine transporter that moves carnitine across the plasma membrane. This limits acylcarnitine formation and prevents transport of fatty acids into the mitochondria, limiting energy production. Tissues with high-energy needs, such as the cardiac muscle and skeletal muscles are particularly affected. CUD **is life threatening**. Immediate intervention is warranted to prevent metabolic crisis.

**Resources**

**Metabolic Nurse Specialist – OKC and Tulsa Mary Monks, RN**  
**Phone (405) 271-8685 Pager (405) 559-1378**

**Newborn Screening Follow-up Program (405) 271-6617 or 1-800-766-2223**

[www.nsp.health.ok.gov](http://www.nsp.health.ok.gov)

**Metabolic Specialist in Oklahoma**

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