

3.04 Care of Children and Young People - Suspected meningitis

You are the duty doctor and Amy has brought her 6 month old baby in as an emergency appointment this morning. Jack has been poorly for a few days with a high temperature and this morning woke up with a rash all over.

Provide: Whenever we see a child with a high temperature and this kind of rash we have to think about septicaemia, an infection in the blood. I think there is a chance that your child has septicaemia or meningitis (an infection around the brain).

Elicit: Do you understand Amy?

Amy: That's what I was worried about. That's why I brought him straight in.

Provide: The first thing I would like to do is to give him an antibiotic injection into the thigh muscle. Is he allergic to penicillin?

Amy: No, not that I know of.

Elicit: I need to call an ambulance to take him straight to hospital. Is there anyone you need to call to let them know what is happening?

Amy: Yes my husband, Paul. He's at work. I'll tell him to meet me at the hospital.

Provide: I will ring the hospital to let them know that you are coming in, so the doctors will be ready for you.