

*May or may not be present.

From Nehring WM: Cerebral palsy. In Allen PJ, Vessey JA, Schapiro NA, editors, *Primary care of the child with a chronic condition*, ed 5, St Louis, 2010, Mosby/Elsevier. Adapted from Jones MW, Morgan E, Shelton JE: Primary care of the child with cerebral palsy: a review of systems (part II), *J Pediatr Health Care* 21:226–237, 2007.

Box 30-3

Early Signs of Cerebral Palsy

- Failure to meet any developmental milestones, such as rolling over, raising head, sitting up, crawling
- Persistent primitive reflexes, such as Moro, atonic neck
- Poor head control (head lag) and clenched fists after 3 months old
- Stiff or rigid arms or legs; scissoring legs
- Pushing away or arching back; stiff posture
- Floppy or limp body posture, especially while sleeping
- Inability to sit up without support by 8 months old
- Using only one side of the body or only the arms to crawl
- Feeding difficulties
- Persistent gagging or choking when fed
- After 6 months old, tongue pushing soft food out of the mouth
- Extreme irritability or crying
- Failure to smile by 3 months old
- Lack of interest in surroundings

Data from Pathways Awareness Foundation: *Parents if you see any of these warning signs don't delay*, Chicago, 1991, Author; Nehring W: Cerebral palsy. In Allen PJ, Vessey JA, editors: *Primary care of the child with a chronic condition*, St Louis, 2004, Mosby/Elsevier; and