

SAFETY ALERT: IMPORTANT TIPS FOR APNEA MONITOR USERS

Be aware that apnea monitors are not perfect.

Most apnea monitors will miss some apneas (stopped breathing). For example, they may mistake body movement for breathing. Also, if your baby has apnea due to choking, the monitor could mistake the movement caused by choking for breathing.

Use your monitor.

Be certain to monitor your baby as prescribed. Although it is not perfect, the monitor will detect most apneas not caused by choking. Most monitors will also warn you if your baby's heart rate becomes abnormal. But the monitor can only do its job if it is turned on and properly connected to your baby. Don't stop using the monitor until your doctor says it's OK.

Be tolerant of false alarms.

False alarms can't be completely avoided. Some of them are actual apneas where the monitor alarm has stimulated your baby to breathe again. Many false alarms may be caused by movement, loose lead wires or improperly placing the electrodes. Sometimes adjusting the monitor to reduce the number of false alarms may increase the chance that the monitor would miss a real apnea. Do not try to adjust the monitor yourself.

Do not sleep in the same bed as your monitored baby.

Touching or moving near your baby, the monitor, or the cables could fool the monitor and cause it to miss apneas. This can accidentally happen when a person or a pet sleeps in the same bed as the monitored baby.

Keep children and pets away from the monitor and your baby.

Children and pets might disconnect the monitor or cause other accidents, particularly when you are asleep or out of the room.

Be sure that the alarm is working.

Be sure that the alarm works during the monitor self-test. Check the alarm before each use. If the alarm does not work, call your equipment provider immediately. Watch your baby closely until the problem is solved.

Be sure the you can hear the alarm.

Make sure you can hear the alarm from other rooms or while there is noise in the house. Have someone test the monitor alarm while you are in those rooms or noisy environment. If the alarm is not loud enough to be heard in the rooms where you need to hear it, ask your equipment provider for a remote alarm.



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Check the monitor's breath detection indicator.

Listen while your baby breathes and watch the "breath" or "respiration" light on the monitor (if your unit has one).

While your baby is breathing quietly, the light should flash once and only once for each breath your baby takes, although it may flash additional times when your baby is moving. If your baby is breathing quietly and the "breath" or "respiration" light flashes more or fewer times than your baby breathes, contact your equipment provider immediately.

Check the battery or charger connection.

If your monitor has an outside battery or charger, **gently** wiggle and twist the connectors to be sure they are tight. If the monitor has a light that indicates when the battery is charging, it should not flicker when the connectors are gently wiggled or twisted.

Keep the monitor at least a foot away from sources of interference.

Interference could fool the monitor and cause it to miss apneas. Sources of interference include electrical appliances, such as electric blankets, electric water-bed heaters, TV sets, air conditioners, and remote telephones. Sometimes draperies or rugs made of synthetic fabric can also cause interference with the monitor due to static electricity. If you feel that your monitor is not working properly, immediately contact the equipment provider and ask them to check the monitor in your environment.

Be aware that radio signals may interfere with monitor operation.

If you live close to a strong transmitter such as TV, AM or FM radio, police or fire stations, a HAM radio operator or an airport, their signals could be picked up as a heart and/or breath signals by your monitor. Checking your monitor's heart indicator and breath detection indicator (see above) can help to determine if your monitor is affected by this interference. In some locations it may not be possible for the monitor to work properly. If so, check with your doctor about other types of monitors.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Be sure to read, understand and follow the instructions in the manual that comes with the apnea monitor. If you don't have a manual, ask your equipment provider for one.

Report major problems with the monitor.

If the monitor isn't working properly, contact your equipment provider immediately for service and watch your baby closely while the monitor is not working properly. If your equipment provider can't help you, contact the manufacturer.