



Use of Codeine Medicines in Breastfeeding Mothers

Breastfeeding mothers that are taking any prescription medicines, including cough medicines, that contain codeine should watch for the following signs of high drug levels in themselves and/or their babies.

These signs are:

Mom: Severe sleepiness
Confusion
Shallow breathing
Severe constipation

Infant: Excessive sleepiness (more than 4-5 hrs at one time period).
Difficulty waking baby
Difficulty breathing
Bluish color of lips
Poor feeding (Breastfed babies eat every 2-3 hrs)
Constipation

If mother or baby shows any of the above signs, notify the doctor right away. If the doctor can not be reached right away, the mother and/or baby should be taken to an Emergency Room, or call 911 for local emergency services.