



feeding matters

# WHEN TO REFER INFANT SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF PFD

*Pediatric Feeding Disorder (PFD) is impaired oral intake that is not age-appropriate and is associated with medical, nutritional, feeding skill, and/or psychosocial dysfunction.*

Goday PS, Huh SY, Silverman A, et al. Pediatric Feeding Disorder: Consensus Definition and Conceptual Framework. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2019;68(1):124-129. doi:10.1097/MPG.0000000000002188.

## Infant and Child Feeding Questionnaire<sup>®</sup> (ICFQ) Screening Tool

### 6-QUESTION SUBSET

Does your baby/child let you know when he is hungry?	YES	NO	
Do you think your baby/child eats enough?	YES	NO	
How many minutes does it usually take to feed your baby/child?	<5	5-30	>30
Do you have to do anything special to help your baby/child eat?	YES	NO	
Does your baby/child let you know when he is full?	YES	NO	
Based on the questions above, do you have concerns about your baby/child's feeding?	YES	NO	

**Red flag answers are in orange. If 2 or more of your answers are orange please contact your pediatrician.**

Silverman AH, Kristoffer BS, Linn C, et al. Psychometric Properties of the Infant and Child Feeding Questionnaire. *Journal of Pediatrics.* 2020 August;223:81-86.e2. DOI: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2020.04.040

## PFD ICD CODES

**Published in 2022 ICD-10-CM**

R63.31 Pediatric feeding disorder, acute  
R63.32 Pediatric feeding disorder, chronic



# INFANT SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF PFD

## Medical

- o labored breathing with **and** without feeding
- o color changes in lips or face when eating or drinking
- o sweating when eating or drinking
- o gurgle or squeaking sounds with **and** without feeding
- o reoccurring upper respiratory infections
- o crying, arching, coughing, grimacing when eating or drinking
- o suspected food allergies
- o multiple formula changes
- o vomiting
- o never seems hungry
- o physical discomfort when eating or drinking

## Nutrition

- o unable to eat or drink enough to grow or stay hydrated
- o insufficient or too rapid of a change in weight or height
- o lack of a certain nutrient, i.e., iron, calcium
- o need for nutritional supplements
- o reliance on a particular food for nutrition
- o need for enteral feeds for nutrition-NG, GT, TPN
- o constipation
- o limited dietary diversity for age
  - too few fruits and/or vegetables
  - limited or no protein source
  - too few foods eaten on a regular basis

## Feeding Skill (12 months or less of age)

- o labored, noisy breathing or gasping
- o coughing, choking, gagging or retching
- o gurgles or wet breaths
- o loud and/or hard swallows or gulping
- o unable to eat or drink enough for optimal growth
- o excessively short mealtimes (< 5 minutes)
- o excessively long mealtimes (> 30 minutes)
- o need for thickened liquids
- o need for special food or modified food texture
- o need for special strategies, positioning or equipment
- o unable to latch to breast or bottle without help
- o weak suck
- o need for pacing, flow management or rest breaks
- o need for special equipment to breast or bottle feed
- o often too tired to eat or quickly falls asleep when eating
- o breast or bottle feeds best when asleep, i.e., dream feeds
- o unable to transition to solids
- o unable to wean from breast or bottle

## Psychosocial

- o unable to come to or stay with the family at meals
- o refusal to eat what is offered or to eat at all
- o disruptive mealtime behaviors
- o unable to eat with others present at mealtimes
- o child stress, worry or fear during meals
- o caregiver stress, worry or fear when feeding child
- o presence of bribes, threats, yelling at mealtimes
- o need for distraction and/or rewards for eating
- o unpleasant mealtime interactions between caregiver and child

**Are signs of PFD present?**

**If yes, refer early and often for early identification of PFD.**

Recommended Referrals:

- Medical  Nutrition  Feeding skill  Psychosocial