

Bristol stool chart

Baby's stool is a conversation parents frequently have with healthcare professionals, with questions about why their baby's stool looks the way it does, to whether their baby is constipated.

This chart is a general guide, designed to help better determine the stool consistency during your conversations with parents

Type 1 and 2 indicate constipation

Type 3 and 4 are easiest to pass

Type 5 and 6 may indicate diarrhoea


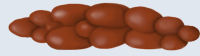





Type 7 may be a sign of illness

The consistency of stool depends on how long it has spent in the colon and therefore how much liquid is absorbed.

Longer time



Shorter time

TYPE 1		Separate hard lumps like nuts (hard to pass)
TYPE 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
TYPE 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on its surface
TYPE 4		Like a sausage or a snake, smooth and soft
TYPE 5		Soft blobs with clear cut edges (passed easily)
TYPE 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
TYPE 7		Watery, no solid pieces, entirely liquid

Adapted from the Bristol stool scale (Lewis and Heaton 1997)