ASSESSMENT OF THE UNSETTLED AND CRYING INFANT ALGORITHM

Infant less than 6 months of age presenting with crying and unsettled behaviour

Does this infant appear sick?

YES

Resuscitate and manage as per Recognition of a Sick Baby or Child Clinical Practice Guideline or Paediatric Sepsis Pathway

NO

Structured history, physical examination, urinalysis, heel prick for blood glucose level
(See Table 1, p8 and Table 2, p9 as a guide)

Organic disease not suspected

Consider sleep, settling and feeding problems, maternal factors and family issues.

Undertake further investigations.
(See Table 5, p11)

Organic disease suspected.
(See Table 3, p10) for a list of differential diagnoses

Stop and consider:
Is this baby at risk of harm?
Assess child protection concerns and consult mandatory reporting guide PD2013-007
See section 5.

Undertake further history and assessment (See Table 6, p16 of guideline) and consider need for consultation with paediatrician, midwife/lactation consultant and/or social worker.

Manage condition as appropriate.
Discuss with senior clinicians.