Table 1

Diagnosing constipation[4]

	Findings in a child ≤ 1 year	Findings in a child > 1 year
Stool pattern	< 3 complete stools/week, type 3 or 4 on the Bristol Stool Form Scale (BSFS) Large hard stools Type 1 stools	< 3 complete stools/week, BSFS type 3 or 4 Overflow soiling Large infrequent stools Type 1 stools
Symptoms associated with defecation	Distress on passing stools Bleeding associated with hard stools Straining	Poor appetite that improves with passage of stools Abdominal pain that comes and goes with passage of stools Retentive posturing: straight-legged, tiptoed, back arching posture Anal pain
History	Previous episodes of constipation Previous or current anal fissure	Previous episodes of constipation Anal fissure Painful bowel movements associated with hard stools

Adapted from NICE CG 99. The diagnosis and management of idiopathic childhood constipation in primary and secondary care