Table 2

Diagnosing idiopathic constipation [4]

	Findings that indicate idiopathic constipation	Red flags that may indicate an underlying condition
Timing of onset and precipitating factors	From first few weeks of life Obvious precipitating factors include: fissure, change of diet, infections, change of school, nursery, major family changes, timing of potty or toilet training	From birth or first few weeks of life
Passage of meconium	Within 48 hours in a term baby	Failure to pass meconium within 48 hours of birth
Stools		Ribbon-like stools
Growth and wellbeing	Generally well, fit and healthy	Faltering growth
Symptoms in legs/ locomotor development	No neurological problems in legs Normal locomotor development	Undiagnosed weakness in legs, locomotor delay
Abdomen		Abdominal distension and vomiting
Diet and fluid intake	Changes in infant formula, weaning, insufficient fluid intake History of poor diet and/or insufficient fluid intake	

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