

New hospital baby monitor will 'raise alarm faster'

SCIENTISTS at Edinburgh University have developed a new alarm for hospitals that can tell faster and more accurately when a baby is in trouble.

The new technology looks at

various streams of monitoring data, including changes to the heart rate and respiratory rate, collectively rather than individually. It is able to quickly dismiss false alarms caused by the baby

moving, being handled or having its nappy changed.

Professor Neil McIntosh, clinical consultant neonatologist at the Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health, said: "If a baby's heart rate

drops to zero suddenly you know that is because a monitoring wire has come off. It is physically impossible for a baby's heart rate to go instantly to zero – they always gradually slow down."

