

Transfer from Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU): Information for Families



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

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www.bcchildrens.ca

Transfer Plans:

- We are happy to say your baby's condition now allows for transfer to the ward from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). We anticipate your baby will be discharged to the ward at approximately _____ (time) on _____ (date). However, this may change unexpectedly.
- You may be anxious about leaving the NICU at first. These feelings are understandable. We want to help you feel more comfortable by introducing you to the ward, its routine and particularly the new people on your baby's health care team.
- Some treatments for your baby may change when you get to the ward. We encourage you to discuss the plan of care with your health care team on the ward once you arrive.
- Everyone is an individual and the length of stay in the hospital will be very different for every baby. Ask the nurses and doctors on the ward when you can expect your baby's discharge.

Ward Information:

- We expect your baby will be transferred to _____. This ward specializes in caring for patients with conditions similar to your child's. Information about this ward can be found on BC Children's Hospital website at www.bcchildrens.ca or you can ask for the information to be printed for you.
- Based on the needs of your baby, you may start in an isolation room or in Room 12 on 3R, which is the "Baby Room". One caregiver will be asked to stay at your baby's bedside. As your baby's condition further improves and your comfort level with his/her care increases you can be moved to a private room. There will also be a chair bed or cot for one family member to sleep at the bedside.
- On the ward, you will be more involved in providing your baby's daily care. The nurses on the ward will continue to work with you to help you become more comfortable with looking after your baby.

- It often helps to see the unit where your baby will be moved to. Your nurse or the charge nurse will arrange a tour of the unit for you.
- To contact the ward your baby is being transferred to, please call 604-875-2345 and request your call to be transferred to the specific ward or request local _____ (ward local)

Your New Health Care Team:

The staff on the ward will be new to you. The following information can be helpful.

- The physician supervising your child's care on the ward will be _____
The nurse in charge of the ward will be: _____
- On the ward, one nurse will be caring for more than one patient in more than one room. This tells you that your baby's level of monitoring has changed. The nurses will look in on each patient in their care every hour, but pressing the call bell will bring a nurse to the bedside quickly. Every nurse carries a phone, directly linking him/her with the patient and family in his/her care.
- If your baby needs physiotherapy, occupational therapy, or other, these services will be provided on the ward.

Support for Parents:

- If you are worried about something, contact the nurse caring for your baby first. She will be able to help you find the answers.
- If you would like to see a Social Worker, Child Life Specialist, Chaplain or Psychologist, please ask your baby's nurse or the charge nurse to put you in touch with these people.

Please write any questions you may have on the back of this pamphlet.

*Developed by the professionals of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
with assistance from the Department of Learning & Development*

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