

Transferring from a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU)

Special Care Baby Unit



Patient information leaflet

This leaflet will explain why you are being transferred from a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU). It also addresses some of the most common concerns about this transition.

Why you are being transferred back to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU)?

Either:-

- Your baby was born in a NICU (St George's or St Peter's)
- Your baby was born here at the Royal Surrey and transferred to a NICU for intensive care or surgery
- Your baby is due to go back to another local hospital but unfortunately they have no available cots to accommodate you and by coming to the Royal Surrey County Hospital, you are closer to home.

Prior to your return to the unit, you are welcome to come for a visit or contact us by telephone. Further information about the unit is also available.

If you are an in-patient, we will be able to provide a maternity bed for you. If you have been discharged you are unable to stay with your baby on the unit but you as parents are welcome on the unit anytime. However, as part of your preparation for discharge, we encourage you to stay with your baby in one of our two "rooming in rooms" prior to discharge. We will explain more about these rooms, nearer the time of discharge.

About our Special Care Baby Unit

- Small, friendly unit with 12 cots.
- Four high dependency and eight special care cots.
- We can provide short-term intensive care, longer term high dependency and special care for babies over 31 weeks gestation.
- We work very closely with St George's and St Peter's Hospitals regarding the management of your baby.

Transferring back to our unit

- This may be a scary, very upsetting and worrying time for you.
- You may have formed a bond with the current staff that have been caring for you and your baby, and may feel nervous about meeting a new team.
- Our team is here to support you during this transition and answer any questions or queries you may have.
- Most babies will go into a cubicle until their admissions swabs are available. We swab all babies transferring back to the unit to ensure they are not bringing an infection into the unit.
- You may have been used to your baby being surrounded by a lot of equipment, as part of the “normalisation” of your baby. Less equipment may be needed as your baby improves.

Staffing

- All of our trained staff are specialised in neonatal care and the majority have worked in a NICU.
- Our staff have chosen to work at the Royal Surrey County Hospital because it is a smaller, family friendly unit that concentrates on supporting you and your baby until you are ready for discharge from the unit.
- You have been transferred back to the Royal Surrey County Hospital because your baby has made good progress and the level of nursing and medical involvement can be reduced. Some parents find this daunting and you may feel that your baby is not getting the care that you are used to from the previous unit. Our unit is here to help you transition from this level of care and to involve you more with your babies care.

How can we support you during your stay?

- As a small family centred unit, we will support you and your immediate family during this transition. We advocate family centred care and can personalise the care given to each baby involving parents as much as possible on a daily basis.
- Whilst you are here, you will get to know the whole team (Medical and Nursing) and we will get to know you and support you during your time with us.
- The staff caring for you will introduce themselves on each shift. We try to provide continuity of nursing care based on your baby's needs.
- Parents are actively involved and encouraged with all aspects of their baby's care including care management decisions.
- We actively promote breast feeding and will support you if this is your choice of feeding. We also have breast feeding advisors to offer additional support.
- We actively promote skin to skin contact and will support you to learn how to care for your baby. Whether this is changing a nappy, bathing or preparation for home.
- In addition to our trained staff, we have nursery nurses and health care assistants who have undertaken additional training in caring for special care babies and once your baby is stable they may provide the majority of your baby's care.
- We also have student nurses who are training to be midwives or children's nurses who work alongside trained staff/nursery nurses to help care for your baby.

Contact details

If you require further information or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Special Care Baby Unit

Telephone: 01483 464834

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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