Ward Rounds in the Neonatal Unit.

Parents Information

Incorporating hospital and community health services, teaching and research
Ward Rounds in the Neonatal Unit

As a team we are very keen to support parents being present in the nurseries on the neonatal unit during medical ward rounds and nursing hand overs.

Historically there have been several reasons for asking parents to leave the nursery during rounds:

- To allow the team to concentrate on the review and planning of care for each baby
- To ensure we maintain confidentiality for each baby

As a team we feel that asking parents not to visit or to wait outside the nursery during rounds interrupts essential time that you should be spending with your baby or babies, such as being involved with nappy changes or kangaroo care.

The ward round is a very important time for each baby in the unit. A full review of each baby is undertaken and then management plans are decided to ensure we are giving your baby the best care possible. These management plans include looking back at what has happened for your baby, prescribing medication, ordering tests and investigations and thinking about what your baby needs in the coming days.

During ward rounds there is a lot of discussion and confidential information may be discussed.

These discussions will contain medical jargon and teaching points for the neonatal staff and this can be confusing for parents. To minimise this during the rounds we will provide you with a brief update on your baby’s progress and condition, but a fuller discussion and explanation will happen later in the day, away from the ward round and in private. This is to ensure the ward round is not excessively long, as there are 46 cots in our service and all babies need to be seen.
Please be assured that we will always update you at any point if significant changes occur.

This change is recognition that you, as parents, are key to your babies care and development. We want to encourage you to spend as much time as possible with your baby and feel part of their management whilst allowing the medical and nursing staff to carefully consider your baby’s progress and management.

With regard to confidentiality, we ask all parents to respect each family’s privacy. We feel that it is really important for parents to be with their babies as much as possible and to remain focused on their own baby during the rounds. We ensure that any sensitive or very personal information for any of the babies will not be discussed in the open room; this has always been our practice and will remain so.

Our intention in writing this leaflet is to make sure that you are aware of the way the unit’s works, so that we can work together to ensure your baby receives the highest quality care during their stay with us.

Useful contacts

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
PALS can provide information and support to patients and carers and will listen to your concerns, suggestion or queries. The service is available between 9am and 5pm.

📞 0208 510 7315
📞 07584 445 400
✉️ PALS@homerton.nhs.uk

For information on the references used to produce this leaflet, please ring 0208 510 5302, text: 07584 445 400 or email patientinformation@homerton.nhs.uk

If you require this information in large print, plain text, audio or Braille please contact the Patient Information Team on 0208 510 5302, text: 07584 445 400 or email: patientinformation@homerton.nhs.uk

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