

Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Hackney College  
Defoe Building, Room 10  
50 Hoxton Street  
N1 6LP

Date 15th December 2016

Email: [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Ref: FOI 2938**

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Neonatal repatriation.

The Trust can provide the following information:

**Neonatal Repatriations.**

The Homerton NICU has produced several documents to support repatriation and transfer to a unit closest to home, see attached.

**Transfers out or repatriations**

- Our repatriation process focuses on the “**home unit**”, this is the unit where the pregnancy was booked to deliver or from where the baby was transferred to Homerton
- The term “**Unit closest to home**” focuses on cases where the woman has booked her pregnancy at Homerton but actually lives closer to another hospital

**Request for transfers in**

- When we look at accepting babies who may have been born at other services but are local Homerton babies, we will use the map and post codes to define the catchment area, this map is the area that is covered by our neonatal community nursing team and by local services e.g. SALT, OTs
- If the family live within this area, then on going care for the child will be provided by paediatric and community services at our Trust and so we would be happy to accept these babies
- We look at each case carefully and take into consideration the on-going care not just the neonatal period/episode. If a baby lives on the borders of our map. Is coming to Homerton NICU just for SC care days and will then be going home to another Trusts, for on-going care and community nursing service, then we would decline the transfer as we feel this breaks the pathway of care for the baby and the family and is often about freeing up space in another NICU. Our team feel the bigger picture of continuity of care is important. We also feel this can create patient safety risks as well.

**None London transfers**

- From a national point of view we will always try to take any London baby that needs ITU care that is outlying to London, even if the catchment area for the parents address is not Homerton
- For overseas transfer requests we will always try to take any London baby that needs ITU or HD care, even if the catchment area for the parents address is not Homerton

Please refer to the attached documents

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk) , in the first instance. If following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

Mohamed Uddin  
FoI Administrator

Mike Dunne  
Information Governance Manager