

Transfer of Babies to Other Units for Follow on Care

Information for parents

Our service at Homerton is a regional service for the sickest and most vulnerable babies across the North East of London. We transfer babies into our unit from local hospitals if they need a higher level of intensive care than their local hospital provides. However, we also need to ensure that we have space available as often as we can for other new babies to come to the unit for intensive care. Therefore, once your baby (or babies) is well enough and stable we will arrange transfer to a neonatal unit closer to home ie. your local hospital. We also move some babies for other reasons e.g.; surgery or for a specialist opinion.

We work closely with the other neonatal units in London who look after babies once they are more stable and do not require intensive care..

Whilst we fully understand that you may feel concerned about transferring to another hospital, we want to reassure you that all of the other services that we work with provide excellent care.

Making these transfers supports us to follow pathways of care for babies born in North East London. These pathways are in place to allow all babies the best possible care in the most appropriate neonatal unit.

If we do not transfer babies when they are more stable and less unwell we can “block” our intensive care cots and this means that sick babies who need our service may not be able to be admitted.

Preparing for Transfer

When the Consultant team are happy with a baby’s condition and confident that the baby is ready for transfer this will be arranged. The doctors and nurses will talk to you about transfer as this time approaches, so you will have an idea that this will soon be happening. Sometimes we have to wait until a bed is available in your local unit. When the bed becomes available the transfer is often arranged very quickly. A neonatal nurse would accompany your baby on the transfer.

If your baby has been at Homerton for a long time we suggest you may find it very helpful to go and visit the unit where your baby will be transferred to before the transfer. Seeing where the baby will be transferred to and meeting staff there is often reassuring for parents.

As a team we like parents to be well informed. We have given this letter to you so that you are aware that a transfer may take place during the time your baby needs to be in hospital.

Thank You

The NICU Team