If you have any questions or if you do not wish your child to be included in the Newborn Network Long Term Neonatal Follow-Up, please contact your local Neonatal Paediatrician who is:

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My Childs assessment date is:
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Time:
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Place:
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Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country Newborn Network Tel: 01782 553390. The Network comprises of the following hospitals:

University Hospital of North Staffordshire
Tel: 01782 715444
Mid Staffordshire General Hospital
Tel: 01785 257731
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital
Tel: 01743 261000
New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton
Tel: 01902 307999
Walsall Manor Hospital
Tel: 01922 721172
Russell’s Hall Hospital, Dudley
Tel: 01384 456111

Information for Parents and Carers

Version 1.0
What is the Newborn Network Long Term Neonatal Follow-Up?

Until your child is 2 years of age they will be routinely followed up in the Neonatal Clinic, where we will look at all aspects of their general health, growth and development. We will also be able to address any concerns that you might have about your child.

The Newborn Network Long Term Neonatal Follow Up is a formal assessment of your child’s development carried out at 2 years of age (corrected for prematurity), where we will look at the things your child can do.

Why is my baby included in Long Term Neonatal Follow-Up?

Your baby is included because he or she was born prematurely at less than 31 weeks gestation and/or had a very low birth weight of less than 1250g. We know that there is an increased risk that these babies might have problems with their development.

How will being included in Long Term Neonatal Follow-Up benefit my baby?

The assessment gives us an opportunity to pick up on any developmental problems and start therapy early; as we know that early intervention will give the best possible outcome for your child. Such therapies might involve physiotherapy, speech and language therapy or hearing and vision assessments.

Who carries out the assessment?

Your child will be seen by a paediatric professional who has been trained to carry out this assessment. It may be your child’s consultant or it may be someone whom you or your child has not met before.

What will actually happen in the assessment?

Your child will be asked to do a number of activities to see if their thinking, language and movement (sitting, walking, etc) are similar to those skills of an average child his or her own age. Some of the activities may seem very easy whilst some might seem very hard. We will ask your child to do things which they are not able to do in order to accurately assess their range of abilities. You might also be asked questions about your child’s social skills (for example how they express emotions or communicate) or their behaviour in specific situations. By answering these questions, it helps us to find out your child’s range of skills.

How long will the assessment take?

The assessment can take from 1 hour to 1½ hours. It is advisable to bring a drink and a snack if you feel your child might need this.

What help can I give my child during the assessment?

You will be invited to stay with your child during the assessment to make them feel comfortable and secure. We would however kindly ask you not to prompt your child or answer for them. It is only normal to encourage your child, but the assessment is specially designed to see how your child performs unaided.

Can I bring my other child(ren) to the assessment?

It is important that your child is not disturbed during the assessment. Your other children will not be able to stay in the same room whilst the assessment is being carried out. Either yourself or someone who can come with you on the day will need to care for your other children outside of the assessment room, you will not be able to leave them unattended.

What if my child is sick on the day?

It is important that your child attends the session whilst they are well. Being unwell will mean that they will not perform to the best of their ability. It is therefore advisable to re-schedule the session.

Will I be told the results of the assessment?

A report about your child’s performance will be sent to yourself and your child’s doctor in a letter shortly after your child’s assessment.

If the results show that your child needs early intervention, the person undertaking the assessment will arrange for your child to be sent an appointment to see the appropriate specialist.

What information will you collect on my child and what will be done with it?

We will record gestation, birth weight and any significant problems that your baby had whilst they were on the Neonatal Unit. We will also record the results of the developmental assessments. This information will be treated confidentially and shared with professionals as appropriate should a referral to a specialist be made.

The information recorded will help us to identify how babies of different gestations and those with specific neonatal issues will develop as they get older. This information is vital as we can begin to use it in the future when counselling parents of premature babies. We are continually aiming to improve our quality of care. If appropriate; we may also publish our results in medical journals. This information will be completely anonymous.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference to neonatal care.