NEWBORN TRANSPORT SERVICE

Parents / Carers Information
What is happening to your baby?

Your baby needs specialist care that is not available at this hospital and therefore needs to be transferred to another hospital that can provide the particular treatment that is required.

Why your baby needs to be transferred

Babies may be transferred for the following reasons:

- weighs less than 1,000gms
- is born less than 28 weeks gestation
- needs 24 hours monitoring
- needs specialist support for breathing
- needs specialist ultrasound services
- needs surgery
- needs specialist care for heart, lungs, brain or other vital organs
- there is no available cot in the neonatal unit for treating your baby

The BLISS Parent Information Guide included in this pack, will give you more information about these conditions and about the sort of care that your baby will be receiving in the specialist unit.
The team who will transfer your baby

The Newborn Transport Service is staffed by Doctors, Advanced Nurse Practitioners and nurses who have all undergone specialised training in transporting babies. The service provides medical and nursing care for babies who need to be transferred to receive appropriate care for their condition. The Service operates twenty four hours a day and transfers sick babies from fourteen hospitals within the region to their accepting hospital.
The Transport Team

The team that will transfer your baby will be made up of a Doctor or an Advanced Nurse Practitioner and a transport nurse. When the transport team receive the transfer request the team will get their equipment ready and use an emergency ambulance to get to the baby as soon as possible.

On arrival the team will introduce themselves to you, then after examining your baby they will explain what is going to happen. Before the team can transfer your baby they will need to ensure that the baby is going to be comfortable and safe during the journey.

Making sure that the baby is prepared for the journey may take some time. If you wish you can stay with your baby during this time but if there is limited space, x-rays being taken or sterile procedures in progress the team may ask you to leave the room.
How your baby is transported

Whilst being transported your baby has very special needs so when they are ready to travel they will be moved into a transport incubator. The transport incubator is like a mobile intensive care unit so the baby can receive the care they require during transfer.
Before the baby is secured in the ambulance we will try to ensure you have a chance to see your baby. You can either visit them on the neonatal unit or if you are unable to get to the neonatal unit we will visit you in delivery suite on route to the ambulance. Whilst you are visiting your baby we will be happy to answer any question you have and provide you with information about the hospital your baby is going to.

We are very sorry but we are unable to accommodate parents in the ambulance. Also, if you are travelling by car we would ask you not to follow the ambulance as we may be using the blue lights and sirens to get through busy traffic. If you are not travelling to your baby’s hospital once we have arrived and handed over care we will contact you and let you know how your baby was during the transfer.
Returning to the referring hospital

Some babies will be treated and discharged from the hospital they are referred to. Some babies will return directly to their referring hospital, others may need to spend some time at another hospital closer to home before they can be transferred back to their referring hospital.

This happens because neonatal care is provided by managed clinical networks and the aim of networks is to provide the most appropriate care as close to home as is possible. Each network has at least one hospital which can provide the most advanced level of care with others providing high dependency or special care.

So if your baby is being transferred from a hospital that only provides special care to a centre that provides the most advanced care then when they no longer need this level of care they
will be transferred to a hospital closer to home that provides high dependency care.

We understand that your baby moving to a new hospital can be an anxious time for parents and that many parents would like their baby to stay at the receiving hospital for all of their care, or until they are well enough to return to the referring hospital. Unfortunately, this is not possible as it results in babies requiring intensive care being turned away because the cot is being used.

We hope this information leaflet has helped you to understand how and when your baby is being transferred, but please feel free to discuss this further with the transport team.
Your Baby’s Transfer Record

The team transferring baby: ………………………

Doctor/ Nurse Practitioner: ………………………..

Transport Nurse: …………………………………

Transferred To: ……………………………………

Date of Transfer: …………………………………