

Information leaflet for Patients, Parents, Carers

Welcome to the Neonatal Surgical ward



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The Neonatal Surgical Ward

We care for newborn, term and preterm babies who need surgery. Patients are referred to us from neonatal units, paediatric wards in other hospitals, via GPs or via the emergency department.

After surgery a big part of the recovery is helping your baby to establish feeding. For babies having surgery on the intestines, this can take several weeks or months.

Throughout your baby's stay on the ward, we aim to support you with information and advice. Our aim is to gradually transfer the care of your baby over to you, as he/she recovers.

Once your baby has had surgery and is recovering, he/she may be transferred back to your local hospital or to another hospital where he/she will be cared for until ready for home.

Travelling to the Hospital

Please see "Travel guide to Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust" leaflet

Or www.bch.nhs.uk

Finding the ward

The entrance to the Neonatal Surgical ward is from Loveday Street (near the Emergency Department) which will be sign posted. Take the stairs or lift to the 3rd floor and the Neonatal Surgical Ward is on the right.

Please ask a member of staff if you are unsure where you need to go.

What you need to provide for your baby during their stay on the ward

- Nappies
- Baby grows (preferably front fastening)
- Vests
- Cardigans
- Cotton mittens (no wool)
- Socks
- Baby bath/ shampoo
- Dummy x2
- The Red Book (Personal child health record)

Your baby's dirty clothes will be put in the bedside locker for you to take home and wash. Please label your clothes as they may get mixed up with the ward clothes and be lost in the general laundry. The Ward cannot be held responsible for lost items.

Please keep toys to a minimum as this makes it easier to clean the bed space.

If you are taking your baby home by car, please remember to bring a car seat on the day of discharge.

Visiting

Parents are able to stay with their baby whenever they wish to. To maintain a sense of calm on the ward and enable nurses to care safely for all, the only other children who can visit are the brothers and sisters of the baby. A maximum of 2 visitors (including parents) can be at your baby's bedside at any time. In some of the cubicles there is room for one parent to stay overnight.

To ensure safety, visitors other than parents are able to visit if you have given their names to the ward in advance. The visiting time for family and friends is now 9am-12pm and 3pm-7pm. Quiet time, to allow the babies to rest and grow, is 2pm to 4pm. If possible, please ask visitors to avoid this period.

Staying overnight

Camp beds are available for one parent to sleep next to their baby's cot, although this may not be possible in all cases as some cubicles are not big enough.

Because of lack of space it is not possible to have camp beds in HDU. For those parents staying at the hospital for long periods of time, there is a limited amount of other accommodation available.

- In-house Parent Accommodation is available on the second floor of the main hospital building. It provides 13 rooms for parents of very poorly children or those who need to sleep close by (eg. Mums who may have had a caesarian section and find it difficult to walk long distances)
- A Ronald Macdonald Charities House (RMHC), located at the back of the hospital, which has 60 bedrooms and a communal day room for all families, resident and non-resident.

These self-catering facilities aim to give you some relaxation and relieve some of your stress while you are here.

Rooms in the Parent Accommodation can be booked through the hospital Parent Accommodation Manager. Rooms cannot be reserved in advance but will be allocated when they become available. Priority is given to those families who have to travel long distances to the hospital, or whose children are expected to be in hospital for some time, or those with other special circumstances eg. Recently delivered/breast feeding mothers.

When you arrive at the ward please ask your baby's nurse to inform the Parent Accommodation Manager of your arrival. If you would like further information about accommodation please contact the Parent Accommodation Manager on 0121 333 8450 or through the hospital's main switchboard on 0121 333 9999 and ask for bleep number 55217.

Infection Control

Babies are nursed in cubicles to try and reduce the spread of infection. There are ways that you can help reduce infections spreading, such as:

- Washing your hands regularly
- Not touching other babies
- Making sure anyone who has been in contact with an infection does not visit and bring infections into the ward. This includes things like sickness, diarrhoea and flu like symptoms.
- Helping us to keep the ward clean by washing up after yourselves in the parent's kitchen and keeping the area around your baby's cot tidy.
- To help us maintain high standards, please make sure that you and your visitors bring in limited belongings and the space around your baby's cot is as clutter free as possible.

Midwife Service

If you are unable to see your own midwife at home you will be able to see one of our visiting midwives. The Midwife Clinic is on the second floor of the hospital inside the Parent Accommodation.

Please ring the buzzer at the entrance to Parent Accommodation when you arrive. The midwife will see both

antenatal and postnatal mothers.

Clinic Times

Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm

Ask your Ward Nurse to make an appointment for you. Please note that these times may be subject to changes due to the availability of the midwife.

Breast Feeding & Expressing Breast Milk

Breast milk is very important for every baby but especially sick babies and even more so for those with bowel/ stomach problems. Breast milk is far more than just food. Breast milk contains essential nutrients your baby needs to grow, develop, and recover from surgery or illness.

In order to establish and/or maintain your breast milk supply for when they are well enough to breast feed, we encourage you to express your breast milk. It is important that you start expressing milk within 6 hours of birth and continue to do this at least 8-10 times a day, including at least once every night.

There is a quiet, private area on the ward that you can use to breast feed your baby or express breast milk. Expressing milk can be done by hand, which is useful in the first few days after birth when you can expect to express small amounts of sticky clear or yellow fluid called 'colostrum'.

Electric breast pumps are available for use on the ward. Your expressed breast milk will be stored safely until your baby is well enough to feed.

The nurses on the ward will be happy to offer you any support or advice that you need.

Facilities on the ward

On the ward you will find a parents' sitting room and kitchen that you can use whenever you like. There is also a shower room and toilet.

The second floor Parent Accommodation has washing machines available free of charge and Tumble Dryers for use with a £1 token obtained by bleeping the Accommodation Manager, Tasmin, on 55217. Nonresident parents must be accompanied by the Ward Nurse to access the facilities in the hospital accommodation.

Ronald McDonald House provides facilities (including laundry) for all families as well as those who are resident.

Catering

There is a family kitchen for you to use on the ward. There is also a cold water dispenser and the ward will provide tea, coffee, milk and sugar.

There is a Hospital restaurant on the Lower Ground Floor that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Opening times:

Mon. - Fri. 7am to 7.30pm

Sat. 7.30am to 2.30pm

Sun. 8am to 2.30pm

There is also a cafe and shop near the main hospital entrance where you can get drinks and sandwiches and snacks. Sodexo vouchers, for a 21% discount on some food, are available from the Ward Nurse for mothers who are breast feeding or expressing. Also for any parents who have stayed in the hospital for more than 3 nights, either at the bedside

or in Parent Accommodation.

Fire Safety

In the event of a fire we would have to evacuate babies from the ward. Please **DO NOT** bring anything which may cause a fire. There is **NO SMOKING** anywhere inside the hospital or outside on hospital grounds.

This includes e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

Electrical items must not be used unless they have been tested by a BCH electrician. Please ask a nurse about this. Fire exits are via the main ward entrance/exit or via Ward 9. The fire alarms are tested every Thursday morning. If the fire alarm sounds please stay where you are until the staff give you further instructions for evacuation.

Parking

Pay as you go parking facility for Parents & Visitors

Parents and visitors can use three NCP car parks for a discounted parking rate. These are called Royal Angus, Londonderry House and High Street car parks. Tickets must be validated at the Welcome Desk. In addition you can park at Printing House St, these tickets do not need validating.

Long Term Parent Parking

If a child is expected to be an inpatient for more than 30 days parents can apply for one of our "long term free parent parking passes". Please ask the nurse in charge of your child's care to complete the request form "Long term parent parking" found on the Facilities Intranet site.

Your name will then be added to the waiting list. When a space becomes available the ward will be contacted. Daily parking tickets will be given to you at the Welcome Desk 24/7 for the NCP car park on the High Street.

Keeping in touch with the ward

The direct phone number for the ward is **0121 333 9022**. Information on your baby's condition will not be given out to anyone other than yourselves as parents.



Ronald
McDonald
House
Birmingham

Ronald McDonald House Charities is an independent charity registered in England and Wales (802047) and in Scotland (SCO40717). A company limited by guarantee no. 2252337 Ronald McDonald House located behind Birmingham Children's Hospital offers free 'home away from home' accommodation to families with children in hospital.

If you are not staying there you are still welcome to use our following facilities during the day.

Use of our dayroom for family gatherings or time away from the hospital.

- We have playrooms, including a pool table.
- Communal kitchens so you can make family meals.
- You are welcome to our breakfasts on waffle Wednesdays and fun food Fridays 9am-11am
- We have laundry facilities here - £2 for a washing machine token and £1.50 for a dryer token.
- Please also look out for posters of our events throughout the year.



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Ronald McDonald House Birmingham can offer non-residents the use of our Day facilities between the hours of 8am–9pm daily.

Within the Day room itself, there is a kitchen, dining area, lounge with computers, and children’s play area. We also have shower and laundry facilities (a small charge is payable for washers and dryers).

Children and Families who are awaiting transport or to take home medications and have been medically discharged from the hospital can utilise these facilities.

All visitors to the House will be asked to sign in on arrival and departure.

Reception 0121 203 2004 St Marys Row Birmingham B4 6NY



Further Information

Hospital Address:

Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Steelhouse Lane Birmingham B4 6NH

Hospital Website: www.bch.nhs.uk

Main hospital number 0121 333 9999

Neonatal Surgical Ward 0121 333 9022

Parent Accommodation 0121 333 8450

You may find the following website useful:
www.healthtalk.org

Looking after and sharing information about your child

We have a duty of care to help patients and families understand how information about them is kept and shared and we include the following information in all our patient leaflets:

Information is collected about patients relevant to their diagnosis, treatment and care. We store it in written records and electronically on computer. As a necessary part of that care and treatment we may have to share some patient information with other people and organisations who are either responsible or directly involved in the patient's care. This may involve taking the patient's information off site. We may also have to share some information for other purposes; such as research etc. Any information that is shared in this way will not identify the patient unless we have the patient's and parent's/carer's consent. If you have any questions and/or do not want us to share that information with others, please talk to the people looking after your child or contact PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) on 0121 333 8403.

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Steelhouse Lane Birmingham B4 6NH
Telephone 0121 333 9999
Fax: 0121 333 9998
Website: www.bwc.nhs.uk

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