London Neonatal Network NHS

Repatriation transfer

Continuing care at your local hospital



Use this area to make notes

The Neonatal Unit we are moving to is:

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Contact information for the new unit:

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Your notes:

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Scan or click here for a list of London neonatal units

CLICK LINK HERE

London Neonatal Network NHS

Welcome. The London Neonatal Network ensures that your baby has access to the specialised care they need as close to home as possible. On the map below you can see the 27 hospitals in the London Network. The hospital where your baby receives neonatal care depends on your baby's condition, diagnosis, gestation, and where you live. At times this may mean that your baby will need to be transferred to a different hospital.

An uplift in care is the transfer of an infant to a unit that provides specialist intensive care, equipment, or surgical care.

Repatriation is the transfer of an infant to a unit closer to home for continuing neonatal or paediatric care following a period of intensive, high dependency, and/or specialist care. You may also hear this called a transfer or back transfer.

This leaflet has been designed to support parents, carers, and families about **Repatriation**.



Levels of Care

Within London there are 27 units, made up of:

The Special Care Unit (also known as a SCU) is for babies who do not need intensive or a high level of care, and for babies born after 32 weeks' gestation. This criteria may vary between SCUs and this will be discussed accordingly with you.

The Local Neonatal Unit (also known as a LNU) is for babies who need a higher level of care, and for babies born after 27 weeks' gestation, if singleton, and/or weigh over 800 grams, or after 28 weeks' gestation, if multiple, and/or weigh over 1000 grams. In addition, LNUs provide SCU level of care.

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (also known as a NICU) is for babies needing the highest level of care, or for babies that do not fit the criteria for an LNU or SCU. Babies admitted to this unit are usually born before 27 weeks' gestation, if singeleton, or before 28 weeks' gestation, and/or weigh less than 800 grams, and/or have specific care needs. Some units specialise in surgery and/or looking after specific conditions. In addition, for local families, NICUs also provide SCU and LNU levels of care



Parent tip

Ask all the questions you need, there are no silly questions

Why and how does repatriation happen?

Where your baby's care is taking place in a hospital that is not local to your area, or when the care can safely by provided in a Local Neonatal Unit (LNU) or Special Care Unit (SCU) closer to home, it is usual for a repatriation transfer to be arranged.

The team will talk through the transfer with you so that you understand why is it needed and what will happen. Most transfers are carried out by the regional transfer team, but sometimes the hospital unit may complete the transfer. Whichever team is involved, they will support you and your baby throughout.

Near the beginning of your baby's stay, the neonatal team will discuss with you about repatriation and identify your unit closer to home. This unit will be informed of your baby's admission.

During your stay the team will keep you updated about you and your baby's care, including any plans for transfer to another unit.

Closer to the time of transfer your local unit will be contacted to receive medical, nursing and therapy handovers. A referral to the transport team will be made.

The date for your baby's repatriation will be discussed and agreed with you. (Please note, this sometimes does change, but you will be kept informed of any changes to the plan.)



Scan or click for a video explaining repatriation

CLICK LINK HERE

Getting ready for Transfer

We will work together with you as you and your baby prepare to move to a unit that is closer to home. Below are a few suggestions that you may find helpful.

Are your details up to date?

Please keep the neonatal unit updated on your personal details as this could affect which neonatal unit best suits you and your baby.



Getting to know your new unit and routines

If you would like to look around the new unit or speak with one of the staff, your current team can help set this up.





Developmental plans

You and the team may be supporting your baby with a developmental plan, if so you can talk to your therapist(s) about how this might work in your new unit.



Belongings and milk

If you have lots of belongings, ask if the transport team will be able to take them or if you need to make your own arrangements.
If you have lots of breast milk at your current hospital, talk to the neonatal team about how it can be taken to the new hospital. You may need to take it yourself.



Closer to the transfer

Your neonatal team should give you the contact details and directions for the unit your baby is moving to.
You and the team should all feel clear on the plan for the day of repatriation.





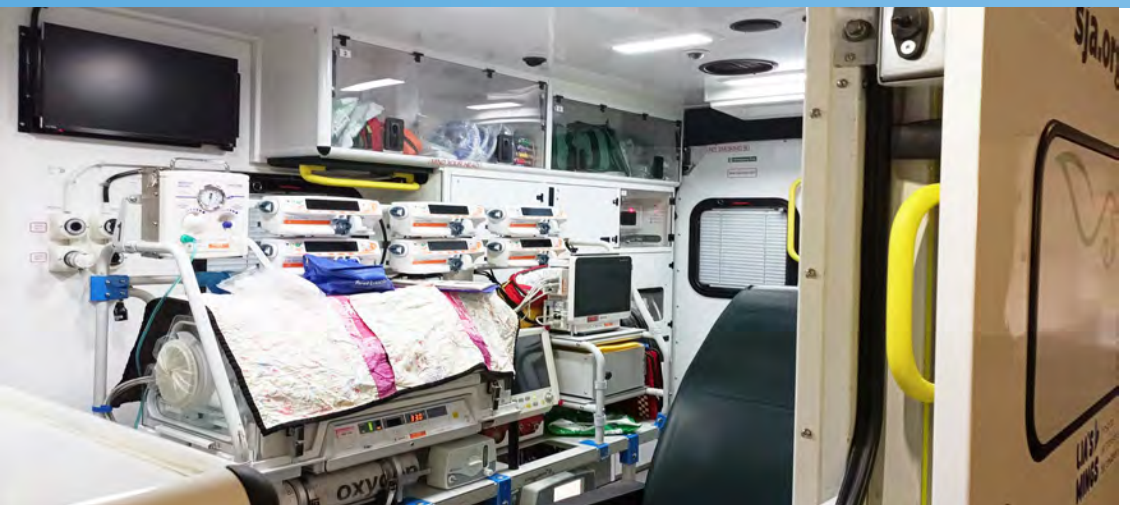
Parent tip

Get to know the new unit in advance if you can, or ask a member of staff for information



Parent tip

If you have expressed breast milk stored at your current unit ask if the transfer team will be able to transport it for you or whether you need to make your own arrangements



The Neonatal Transfer Service (NTS) is a specialised neonatal transport service. They have dedicated neonatal consultants, senior registrars, neonatal nurses, dedicated ambulance crew, and specially adapted ambulances. All staff have specialist transport training.

The ambulances are specially adapted to give your baby a comfortable ride and carry extra equipment in case any treatment is needed on the way.

Your baby will be transferred in a special incubator on a transport trolley that includes a lot of the equipment used in an intensive care unit. The incubator will keep your baby warm and monitor their heart rate, oxygen levels and other important information.

If your baby needs support with breathing or other specialist equipment, the team will be able to do that.

Your baby's safety is paramount to the team. The transport incubator trolley has been designed and tested in accordance with the British Standards Institution. The ambulance staff have undergone blue light driver training.

Your baby will be secured in the incubator with a special seatbelt. This harness is designed for neonates to be secured safely in the incubator and helps to reduce movement and vibration.





CLICK LINK HERE

Scan or click to see virtual tour ... coming soon



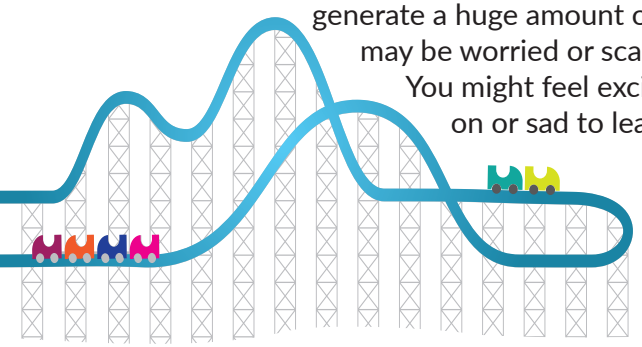
Did you know that in most cases you can travel with your baby in the ambulance? The transfer team will chat to you about this.



Looking after yourself

It is likely that your neonatal stay has been a roller coaster of emotion, with some good days, and some difficult days, and a huge amount of worry for your baby. You may also be juggling work or other caring responsibilities which can be a lot.

Thinking about and planning a move to a different unit may generate a huge amount of feelings for you. You may be worried or scared about the next step. You might feel excited that you are moving on or sad to leave the unit and staff you know well. You might feel lots of different things, and different feelings might conflict (like feeling excited and scared at the same time).



The new unit might do things differently to the unit you have come from and this can take some time to get used to. We know neonatal admission is tough on families, and we do have some resources about looking after yourself.

Top Tip from our psychologist

Most units have someone you can talk to before and after you move. Lots of parents find them helpful in managing the admission and thinking about next steps

CLICK LINK HERE

Scan or click to download our leaflet called 'Caring for yourself and others'

Here are some things that can help:

Gather information before your move - we know that information can feel overwhelming but we also know it helps people feel better after the move

Notice when you are feeling wobbly and find something that helps - whether it is talking to a friend or going for a walk

Give yourself time - it can be a big adjustment to move to a new unit, so hang in there if it feels hard at the start - this will change

Hold on to hope - these feelings won't last forever



Parent tip

Know it is normal to feel stressed, worried or unsettled when you and your baby are being transferred and that help is available if you need it

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Produced in collaboration with the London Neonatal Network parent representatives. We would like to thank and acknowledge the Repatriation Parent Information Leaflet task and finish group in the creation of this guide.

For further information you can visit the organisations via the links below

London Neonatal Network NHS

CLICK LINK HERE

Bliss for babies born premature or sick

CLICK LINK HERE

NTS NEONATAL TRANSFER SERVICE LONDON

CLICK LINK HERE

London Neonatal Network NHS

For more information please visit

www.londonneonatalnetwork.org.uk

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