



INFORMATION ABOUT TRANSFER FROM A LEVEL III NICU TO A LEVEL II HOSPITAL

The Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health supports Ontario's maternal and child health care providers in the delivery of health care services. We strive to provide services that are timely, high quality, accessible and family-centered. Our focus is on delivery of the right care in the right place at the right time.

Discharge and transfer planning begins on admission to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). A Level III NICU provides care to very sick and/or premature babies. Level III NICUs must have beds available for very sick babies who need specialized medical care. We know that it is important to you to have your baby in the NICU when s/he is very ill. As your baby makes progress and gets stronger, your baby may not need the level of care provided in the current NICU. When your baby is ready, the health care team will locate a bed in a hospital that provides the best level of care for your baby. This transfer to another hospital is called a retro-transfer.

We believe that families are partners in the care of their children. As the health care team begins to plan for transfer, they will discuss the plan with you.

Transfer to a Level II NICU, sometimes called a Special Care Nursery, will have many benefits for you and your baby. It will allow you to get to know the health care team in your community hospital.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

When will my baby be transferred?

Your baby's health is the most important factor when considering a transfer. All transfer plans will be made based on your baby's condition. The health care team will consult with the receiving hospital to plan the transfer. The health care team will discuss the available options with you.

How much notice will we receive prior to transfer?

Each baby's situation is different. We try to plan in advance for a transfer; however, beds often become available on short notice. You will be notified when a transfer is happening. Please keep your contact information up to date.

How will my baby get to the other hospital and who will escort my baby?

Your baby will be transferred in a transport incubator with a member of the health care team.