

## Fact Sheet

# Transferring your special care baby to another hospital

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### Dear Parent,

To make sure that we have space for babies who need intensive care, we work closely with other hospitals in Western Sydney, New South Wales and the ACT to provide ongoing special care for babies who no longer require intensive care.

- As your baby's condition improves, you can expect that we will transfer your baby to a special care nursery as close as possible to your home.
- Less often, babies are transferred to a special care nursery that is not the closest one to your home. We hope you will understand that such transfers may be needed to provide intensive care for other babies in need.
- We will discuss this with you before the transfer and you should remain assured that all facilities and care available at the special care nursery where your baby is transferred will be appropriate to your baby's needs.
- Without this practice, Neonatal Intensive Care Units would become full and have to be closed more often, even when other Special Care Nurseries have spaces available.
- Westmead Hospital may be closest to your home, however, to enable us to provide care for babies from all over the state, it may be necessary to transfer your baby to another hospital that can best provide the care your baby needs at that time.

**Please ask our Neonatologist  
any questions you may have.**

### What are the options if the baby is a private patient?

If you prefer, your baby could go to a Special Care Nursery in a private hospital. Family hospital insurance may cover a new baby, however, you should check with your health fund first.

### Transferring a baby on a ventilator to another hospital if our intensive care beds are full

If our Unit is extremely full, we may need to transfer your baby on a ventilator to another hospital, with intensive care facilities. We will discuss this with you first and will always ensure that your baby is cared for in the most appropriate unit possible.

### Hospitals in the Western Sydney Local Health District with Special Care Nurseries

#### Auburn Hospital

Norval Street  
Auburn, NSW 2144  
Phone: (02) 8759 3000

#### Blacktown Hospital

Blacktown Road  
Blacktown, NSW 2148  
Phone: (02) 9881 8000

#### Norwest Private Hospital

Norbrik Drive  
Bella Vista, NSW 2153  
Phone: (02) 8882 8882

#### Westmead Private Hospital

Corner of Mons & Darcy Roads  
Westmead NSW 2145  
Phone: (02) 8837 9000

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### Neonatal Transfers within our district

When your baby no longer requires intensive care, he/she will be transferred to our special care unit in Westmead Hospital.

**OR**

Transferred to another special care unit within our district:

- Auburn Hospital
- Blacktown Hospital
- Westmead Private Hospital
- Norwest Private Hospital

You can then prepare to take your baby home.

**OR**

Transferred to your local Special Care Nursery if you live outside Western Sydney Local Health District

If your baby is on a ventilator in stable condition and our Intensive Care Unit becomes **FULL**, your baby may be transferred to another Intensive Care Unit. This will allow us to provide care for another sick or unstable baby.

Other Neonatal Intensive Care Units:

- The Children's Hospital Westmead
- Liverpool Hospital
- Royal North Shore Hospital
- Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
- Royal Hospital for Women
- The Canberra Hospital
- John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle
- Nepean Hospital

**Sometimes when the NICU is full, women who are expecting a very preterm baby are moved to another maternity hospital before delivery, often as far away from home as Newcastle or Canberra. These babies will eventually be transferred back to Westmead when it is safe to do so.**



**We welcome further feedback on this brochure as a way of continually improving our service.**

**Send your feedback to:**

WSLHD-Get\_Involved@health.nsw.gov.au