

## Transfer of Babies

Welcome to the neonatal unit at Liverpool Women's Hospital. As a team, we look after babies from the local area who require general neonatal care, as well as babies from the wider North-West and North Wales who need advanced treatments that only specialist centres such as us can deliver.

**If your pregnancy has been booked elsewhere**, but your baby has been delivered here due to reasons of your own, or your baby's, health, we will aim to transfer your baby back to the care of your booking hospital as soon as their level of care has reached that which may be delivered in your local neonatal unit. Transfer back to your booking hospital is important to allow their team to get to know you and your baby, and to organise your baby's post-discharge care plan.

**If your pregnancy has been booked at Liverpool Women's Hospital**, we will aim to complete your baby's admission on the neonatal unit here. However, there are occasionally times when the unit becomes so busy, or the number of babies requiring intensive care increases to such a level, that the admission of further babies would compromise the care we can safely deliver to all babies on the unit. In situations such as these, we would seek to transfer out any baby whose care may be alternatively safely delivered at a local neonatal unit, so that, like we did for your baby, we can offer intensive care to other babies. **This is so we may remain able to provide the specialist level care that families and babies from across the North-West and North Wales may urgently need.** In the rare event of this occurring, we will do our best to ensure that the unit your baby is transferred to is as close to home as possible. We would also aim to accept them back to our care when the pressure on our service resolves.

**If your baby is being transferred for any reason**, we will closely liaise with the unit receiving your baby, to ensure comprehensive handover of their medical and family history, and ongoing care needs. We understand that moving to a new unit can be a worrying step – all our transfers are carried out by a specialist neonatal transport team, who are experienced in caring for babies during transfers. If possible, we would

encourage, and can help facilitate, visiting the new unit for your baby prior to their transfer, in order get to know the new team and environment, and to tell them about your baby in your own words.

**Whenever we transfer a baby to a local neonatal unit**, we hope that they will not require intensive care level treatment again. However, due to the unpredictability of neonatal care, we know this is not always the case. If your baby should become unwell or need to return for specialist care from our team, we will readily accept them back for continuing care, and we will be sensitive to your concerns when the times comes again for transfer back to your local unit.

We understand discussions about transferring your baby may be difficult for you, and if you have concerns, please feel free to discuss them with the team. Please consider, however, that your baby's admission here may not have been possible without the same policy being applied to families before you.

**This leaflet can be made available in different formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at [pals@lwh.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@lwh.nhs.uk)**

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