

Oximeter

This is a probe that emits a red light giving us your baby's blood oxygen levels. It is attached to the baby's foot or hand and does not hurt them.

Oxygen

Some babies need extra oxygen to help them breathe when they are first born. This usually flows into the isolette or into a clear plastic box around the baby's head.

Blood Sugars

A small heel prick is made to get a drop of blood which is analysed in a small machine which tells us if the baby has enough sugar in the blood.

Jaundice

Some babies develop a yellow colour, which is called jaundice and is very common in small or premature babies. It is easily treated by putting the baby in the isolette under special lights (phototherapy). The lights may be needed for a few days. You can still continue to feed and care for your baby.

Intravenous Feeding

For various reasons your baby may have a few days on a simple type of intravenous feeding of water and glucose into a vein. This does not prevent you from cuddling or feeding your baby.

Transfers

In the event of your baby becoming seriously ill, it may be necessary to transfer the baby to one of the Intensive Care Nurseries in Melbourne. The transfer is carried out by the Newborn Emergency Transport Service (NETS) in an ambulance which comes from Melbourne with specially trained staff. Any decision to transfer is made by the doctors and this would be discussed with you prior to transfer.

Support Services

Social Worker

A social worker is available on weekdays for families to provide emotional support and practical assistance relating to accommodation, finances, legal matters, managing at home and information regarding community services.

Teddy Bear House

Child care is provided by volunteer staff for families visiting in hospital. The Teddy Bear House is situated on Level 2 in the main hospital building and is open weekdays, during the day only.

Brochures

Information brochures are available on a wide range of subjects relating to babies and breastfeeding. If you require any assistance please ask the staff.



Baxter Maternity Services

The Geelong Hospital

THE IDA PACEY SPECIAL CARE NURSERY

Phone : 5226 7514

This information brochure has been prepared to answer some questions you may have if your baby has been admitted to Special Care Nursery



BARWON HEALTH
The Geelong Hospital
Ryrie Street
PO Box 281
Geelong 3220

Welcome to The Ida Pacey Special Care Nursery. We aim to provide a supportive environment for you and your family. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask the midwives or doctor. The direct phone number to Special Care is 52267514. You may ring at any time.

Visitors

Parents may visit at most times and are encouraged to share in the care of their baby. If you have had a caesarean birth, the midwives will give you a photo of your baby and regular updates regarding your baby's progress until you are able to visit.

Other family members and visitors may visit at any time of the day if they are accompanied by one of the parents or if arrangements have been made with the staff. Visitors can also be restricted by Parents. Parents only to visit after 9.00pm. Rest period is between 12.00pm and 2.00pm. Lights are dimmed and visitors are asked to talk quietly. Children may visit if well supervised by an adult.

Doctor's Rounds

To maintain confidentiality for all babies, visiting is not permitted for a short time around 7.45am on Mondays and Fridays and 8.30am on Wednesdays, as doctors are discussing all babies. Any change in condition or treatment of your baby will be discussed with you as soon as possible. If a baby is having a difficult procedure carried out, parents may be asked to wait in the sitting room.

Handwashing

Parents and all visitors should wash their hands at the sink inside the Special Care Nursery before entering the main nursery. Handwashing helps to protect the babies from infection.

Colds

Adults and children with colds, flu or cold sores are discouraged from visiting the nursery thereby protecting all babies from illness. Parents may still visit but may need to wear a mask. You may be advised not to kiss your baby. More frequent handwashing is also advised. If you are in doubt, ask the nursing staff.

Bathing

Babies in isolettes are sponged daily. When they are well enough to be in a normal cot, they are bathed daily. Nursing staff will teach both parents how to sponge bath and change a nappy on their baby. Bathing can be done at any time to fit in with the parents routine.

Baby's Clothing

All clothing is supplied, however, you are welcome to bring in your own if you prefer.

Weight and Length

The babies are usually weighed daily until they are gaining steadily and then they are weighed every second day. Baby's length is usually not measured until the first bath.

Feeding

Feeding may be by breast, tube or bottle. Depending on your baby's condition there could be 2, 3 or 4 hourly feeds. Breastfeeding is encouraged and is especially beneficial if your baby is sick or small. Whatever your feeding choice, we will support and help you.

Expressing Milk

Your baby may not be able to breastfeed each feed time, so you will need to express to stimulate your milk supply and to provide breastmilk for your baby. Whether you are an inpatient or visiting, you can use the electric pump in the nursery.

If you want to express at home you can express by hand, hand pump or hire an electric breast pump (ask staff for details). If your baby has been transferred to Melbourne, we can arrange for your expressed milk to be transported by train.

Rooming In

If you go home before your baby, we usually prefer that you be readmitted as a boarder before the baby goes home. This gives you the opportunity to be close to your baby to establish feeding and to develop confidence with mothering skills before going home. A mothers' 'rooming in' room is attached to the nursery. Meals are provided with tea and coffee facilities located in the Birthing Suite kitchen. Visitors are asked to leave before 9.00pm.

PHACC - Paediatric Home and Community Care - is a home visiting service available to Special Care Nursery babies, which can allow some babies to go home earlier with home visits provided by Special Care Nursery Staff.

SPECIFIC TREATMENT YOUR BABY MAY HAVE

Isolettes

The isolettes are heated to keep your baby warm. They can also provide oxygen and give a clear view so that the nurses can observe your baby.

Heart and Breathing Monitor

This is attached to the baby by three sticky dots to the baby's chest. It records the baby's heart rate and breathing rate and allows continuous monitoring of your baby.