

Newborn Protection Practices

While you are in the hospital.

- The safety and security of you and your newborn is important to us. If you have any safety concerns or know of situations that may jeopardize the safety/security of you or your newborn, please speak to staff immediately.
- We practice rooming-in couplet care, which has many benefits for both parents and newborns, and it is also the safest place for your baby to be. Certain procedures may require your newborn to be transported to the nursery. The nursery doors are secured at all times to limit access. Authorized staff is always present when a newborn is in the nursery.
- A newborn may leave the nursery or parent's room only if accompanied by the parent wearing a matching newborn ID band (birth parent or Intended Parent) or authorized staff that are identified by wearing a green OBGYN tag along with their photo employee ID.
- Always know where your newborn is going, who is taking your newborn, what is being done, and when your newborn will be returned to you. You may go with your newborn whenever you wish.
- Be sure to know the staff members assigned to you and your newborn.
- One identified support person has 24-hour visitation when unit accommodations can be made. Family and friends may visit in your room between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. **No children are allowed to spend the night in a patient's room or stay past 8 p.m. Children who are visiting must have adult supervision from someone other than the patient at all times while visiting.**
- Birth/Intended parent and the newborn are identified at delivery with a special set of identification bands. The bands remain on through discharge. They are checked for matching information every time you and your newborn are reunited. It is very important for safety that the matching of ID bands is done without interruption. If you notice that the band is loose or missing, please tell your nurse.
- Your Newborn will also have a HUGs tag and band placed on the opposite ankle of the identification band. This is a hospital wide protection device that allows us to track your newborn's location at all times to ensure their safety.
- When rooming in with your newborn, you must be able to respond to and care for your newborn. Your bed is left in a low position and your side rails are up as needed. Your call bell is kept within reach – please use it whenever you need assistance. A bulb syringe is always in the crib, and a dim light is left on at night when your newborn is in the room.

- When in the crib, your newborn must always be positioned on their back. Your newborn must be in someone's arms or the crib when in your room. The newborn must never be left alone on the bed/chair.
- You must follow the ABCs of safe sleep. Your newborn should sleep **A** – Alone, on their **B** – Back, and in a **C** – Crib. Keep soft objects, toys, and loose bedding out of your newborn's crib. You must not sleep in the bed or chair with your newborn.
- Your newborn must never be left alone in your room and must always be kept in the parent's/parent's designee's direct line of sight and hearing. The parent's designee should be someone who is known by the parent and well-trusted, such as a family member or longtime friend. The designee cannot be another patient or staff member who is not authorized to watch over the newborn. When this is not possible, your newborn should go to the nursery.
- Newborns are never carried outside the parent's room or nursery – they are always transported in a bassinet.
- Newborns must remain either on the parent's obstetric unit or in the nursery.

Upon going home the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children recommends these additional safety precautions:

- Avoid the use of outdoor announcements such as signs, balloons, and other lawn ornaments. These are not recommended to announce a birth because they call attention to the presence of a new infant in the home.
- Only allow persons into your home who are well-known by the parent. It is not advised to allow anyone into your home who is just a recent acquaintance or known only online such as in social networking websites, chat rooms, and forums, especially if met briefly since you became pregnant or gave birth to your infant.

If you have additional questions or concerns about newborn protection during your stay, please speak with the Charge Nurse.

