

Dear Parent(s)

Having a baby is a special journey, and our team is committed to providing you and your baby with the best care and guidance every step of the way.

Each year, in England, '1 in 7' babies will spend time in neonatal care and last year in the East of England Region we gave neonatal care to 11462 babies. Our neonatal care is provided by a network of hospital units to make sure babies have the best care according to their health needs, born early, sick or needing surgery.

We wanted to write to you, to help you understand how our care is organised and what this means for you and your baby.

### Care for Babies Born Early Sick or Needing Surgery in the East of England

There are 4 types of neonatal care, the care your baby receives depends on the health needs of your baby.

<b>NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care)</b>	<b>Local Neonatal units</b>	<b>Special Care units</b>	<b>Transitional Care</b>
Gives care to babies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who are the sickest and need intensive care</li> <li>Who may need surgery</li> <li>Who need specialist care not available at their local unit.</li> </ul>	Gives care to babies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who need short term intensive care</li> <li>Who need high dependency care</li> <li>Who need specialist care</li> </ul>	Gives care to babies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who need short term high dependency care</li> <li>Who need specialist care</li> <li>Who require support to stabilise their health needs.</li> </ul>	Gives care to babies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who can receive care next to their mothers, sometimes on postnatal wards</li> </ul>
(3 hospitals in our area provide this care)	(10 hospitals in our area provide this care)	(4 units in our area provide this care)	(all 17 hospitals in our area provide this care)

**\* A Neonatal unit within your postcode area is classed as your local unit**

It is important that we can provide the “right care in the right place” for each baby according to their health needs. The care of your baby needs to be in the right place for them.

### Moving your baby to the right place of care

Sometimes, this means the right place for your baby to get the care they need, is not in the hospital where you booked your care, where they are born in, or where they started their care. This may be because:

- Your baby needs specialist / intensive care which is not provided within your local / choice hospital and is transferred to a NICU.
- Your baby is getting better after receiving a period of intensive care at one of the 3 NICU’s and no longer needs intensive care. This means your baby will return to a neonatal unit within your postcode area that is able to provide the care your baby needs.
- Your baby does not need intensive care and is transferred to your local hospital (designated by postcode) for on-going care.

This means if your baby moves to a unit for more specialist care, they will be moved back to your local unit when they no longer need that level of care. Your local unit is worked out by your postcode and should be the one closest to where you live. Your baby will not be moved until they are well enough to return to their local unit, but making sure all babies receive the right level of care in the right place means all babies who need specialist care are able to access that at the correct time and place.

### **When your baby is ready to move**

We understand when it is time for your baby to move their care, it can cause some concern for you as a parent, and we work hard to make this as seamless as possible for you and your baby.

Before your baby moves their care, our team will discuss the reasons for the move with you. Where possible, it can help to visit the unit they are moving to, but this may not always be possible if your baby needs to receive emergency care. Most units will have a video tour of their unit if you are not able to visit, and there are link nurses that you will be able to link with to get support as your baby moves to their new unit.

On the day your baby moves to the new unit, one parent should be able to travel with them. All our hospitals will be able to help you contact the link nurse for your local unit when you baby moves.

As a network we are committed to working closely with families and will aim to keep transfers to a minimum, but this must be balanced with the needs of all babies requiring neonatal critical care across the region.

We hope you will be able to support us as we work to support you and your baby.

Regards



Liz Langham

Director Neonatal ODN

UNIT CD / lead nurse

\*A note to staff, please give in addition to this letter (or show parents where to see a digital copy if paperless,

- **Moving Neonatal Leaflet**

[https://eooneonatalpccsicnetwork.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Neonatal-Units-Leaflet-v01\\_2024.pdf](https://eooneonatalpccsicnetwork.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Neonatal-Units-Leaflet-v01_2024.pdf)

- **Guide to signpost for Link Nurse Letter**

<https://eooneonatalpccsicnetwork.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Guide-for-signpost-to-Link-Nurse-letters.pdf>