

Visiting your Baby in South London Neonatal Units

Parents are welcome at any time in all the Neonatal Units. You are encouraged to spend as much time with your baby as you possibly can.

Visiting is not advised if you or any of your visitors are unwell. Please ask the staff for advice if you are unsure.

All visitors to the Neonatal Unit have to be accompanied by one of the parents unless you agree with the unit that others can visit without you being present.

For various reasons, all the Neonatal Units vary in their restrictions for visitors. We advise that you refer to the guidance and policy that is available on each individual unit.

- The number of visitors at the baby's cot side at any one time is restricted as this is to help protect babies from the risk of infection and ensure that the nurseries are not overcrowded.
- There are restrictions on children visiting and these vary between units. We would like to remind you that you are responsible for your children whilst on the Neonatal Unit. For their own safety, we ask that brothers and sisters are not left unsupervised.
- Cameras and mobile phones are allowed however please avoid taking pictures of staff, other babies and parents. Please place your mobile phone on silent mode and do not use your mobile phone whilst visiting your baby in the clinical area.
- You may be asked to use head phones (if available) or leave the nursery for a short period when other babies are being discussed on ward rounds. This is to protect patient confidentiality.
- Visiting policies can be subject to change due to infection control or other circumstances.

Winter Virus Season

During the winter virus season parents are welcome to visit any time. However each unit will have a different policy and there may be further restrictions on other visitors and siblings.

Every winter the number of viral infections increases. Many of these viruses cause colds in adults and children but can cause severe illnesses and even death in premature babies.

Adults and Children can be infectious even before they themselves have symptoms such as a runny nose.

Premature babies are more at risk of infections because they have less mature immune systems and their lungs and airways are not fully developed.

We advise that if you are unwell or concerned about your health and visiting the unit, please speak to staff (preferably before you visit the unit) who will provide you with the necessary advise.

We know that you will want to continue to protect your baby from infection and we would be grateful for your support in minimising the infection risk.