

Patient transfers: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Regardless of the individual circumstance, we are committed to the best possible care for your baby and together with Manitoba's other NICUs, we ensure all babies entrusted to us receive the best and most appropriate care.

Why are babies transferred to another facility?

There are two NICUs in Winnipeg. Health Sciences Centre (HSC) Women's Hospital 665 William Avenue and St. Boniface Hospital (SBH) 409 Taché Avenue. Your baby may be transferred to the other NICU as determined by our team to continue their NICU journey.

If you are from a community outside of Winnipeg, your baby may be transferred to Brandon or Thompson once our team has determined your baby's medical needs can be met at another facility.

If your baby no longer needs the care of NICU but still requires care only available in hospital, they may be transferred to HSC Children's Hospital under the care of a pediatrician.

While your baby is in our care in NICU, you will build trusted relationships with our staff. We know change can be hard and when the time comes to move or transfer your baby, we will update you with any plans and give you as much time as possible to prepare. However, at times, an emergency may lead to a quicker transfer.

How does the transfer work?

Each morning we call the hospital to see if they have a bed for your baby.

Once a bed is available, we transfer your baby's information directly to the other hospital. A thorough report is exchanged from nurse to nurse and another from doctor to doctor to ensure continuity of care. Once handover is completed, we arrange transportation. Your baby will be accompanied by a nurse and will be transferred in a transport incubator with all things needed to keep your baby safe.

We will keep you informed of bed space availability and call you before your baby leaves. It is important that we have your current contact information, ensure you share this with your nurse.

Our goal discharge time is 11:00 AM, however, discharge may occur earlier or later than planned. Your health care team will keep you up-to-date on any changes to your discharge time.

What can I expect in the new nursery?

The same intensive care is given, but nursery rules may differ. You may request to take a tour of the new nursery upon transfer. Ask your healthcare team member to arrange.

For more information or if you have questions please speak with your neonatologist, a member of your nursing team, or the unit manager.