NHS
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.

**You can use Text Relay to turn telephone communications into text.
Use the Relay UK app on your phone, tablet or PC.
You can also use Relay UK via Minicom or Uniphone.**

اگر نیاز به ترجمه دارید، لطفا با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیرید.

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਤਰਜਮੇ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ: 01932 723553

اگرآپ اس کا اُردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براہِ کرم اِس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں

Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

Ashford Hospital
London Road
Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 3AA
Tel: **01784 884488**

St. Peter's Hospital
Guildford Road
Chertsey, Surrey
KT16 0PZ.
Tel: **01932 872000**

Website: **www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk**

Patients first • Personal responsibility • Passion for excellence • Pride in our team

NHS
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Guidance for Parents and Visitors of Babies Requiring Source Isolation on NICU

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Patient Information

Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net. If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

Authors: S Patel (Nurse Consultant - IPC), G Finch (ANNP), S Wye (NICU Matron), Dr P Ponnusamy (Neonatal Consultant) **Department:** NICU

Version: 1.0 **Published:** January 2026 **Review:** January 2029

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Parents are not routinely required to wear PPE, as you will only be handling your own baby and not other babies within the Unit.

- Staff will advise you to wear any PPE as needed, for example you may need to wear a face mask if your baby has a respiratory infection.

- Staff will wear PPE based on risk assessment of the task they are carrying out, rather than automatically wearing PPE for all baby contact. However, staff should always clean their hands before and after contact with your baby and their surroundings.

If you have any questions or concerns about your baby, please raise this in the first instance with the nurse / doctor caring for your baby who will be happy to discuss this further with you. Alternatively, please contact Sara Jane Wye (NICU Matron), Gemma Finch (ANNP & NICU IPC Lead) or Vennila Ponnusamy (Clinical Lead for NICU).

Guidance for Parents & Visitors of babies requiring source isolation on NICU

Why does my baby require source isolation?

All babies in the Neonatal Unit are routinely screened on admission and then weekly for certain bugs, such as MRSA and CPE, as these bugs may cause infections. Other clinical samples, e.g. blood, may also be taken if your baby shows signs of having an infection.

If your baby is found to be positive for any bug that can cause an infection to themselves or others, your baby will be cared for in their incubator and staff will use infection control precautions, to reduce the risk of spreading the bugs to other babies in the Unit – this is called source isolation. This may include caring for babies with the same infection in the same room (cohorting) or caring for babies with different infections in the same nursery but with a dedicated nurse and equipment, where possible.

Staff will display a poster with IPC (Infection Prevention and Control) precautions by your baby's incubator / cot; please do not be alarmed if you see this poster displayed, it is put up as a reminder to staff about the IPC precautions needed.

You will be told by the nursing and medical teams exactly why your baby requires source isolation, what organism they have, and how the team will support you to care for them throughout the remainder of their stay on NICU.

Can we continue to visit our baby and use communal areas within the unit?

If your baby is found to be positive for an infection, or from screening, we ask you to limit your movement within the Unit. This will most likely be until your baby is discharged or as otherwise advised by the Trust IPC Team, who will advise your doctors and nurses. This precaution is taken to reduce the risk of spreading the bugs onto environmental surfaces within the Unit and to other babies. This includes not using the communal parents' kitchen area. Staff will support you in accessing food and refreshments. Please discuss this with the staff caring for your baby, who will be able to provide further details, including as set out below.

Mothers are requested not to use the expressing room but will be supported with the kit to express at the cot side. They should be provided with a privacy screen, and the nurse allocated to the baby will clean and decontaminate the breast expressing kit following each use.

Parents will always be allowed and supported to have unrestricted skin to skin cuddles with their baby irrespective of the infection their baby has, recognising the importance of family integrated care and to support bonding. However, it is <u>not</u> advisable for extended family members and friends to have skin to skin cuddles whilst a baby is being source isolated.

Parents of babies in source isolation, unless in exceptional circumstances, will generally not be offered a room in the parent's accommodation to limit the potential spread of organisms to other babies and their families.

Visiting is not limited when a baby is being source isolated. We simply ask that the extended family members and friends follow the same restrictions in place with regards to access to communal areas and use the main waiting area by reception when not by the cot side.

Hand Hygiene Guidance and use of personal protective equipment (PPE), e.g. disposable gloves, aprons and face masks

Trust IPC guidance and policies will be followed and adherence monitored; this includes the need for all staff, parents and visitors to follow correct hand hygiene practices.

Please continue to follow the hand hygiene guidance below:

- Clean your hands on entry and exit from the nurseries.
- In addition, clean your hands before and after holding / cuddling / caring for your baby.
- Hand hygiene can be carried out using either alcohol hand sanitiser (provided at the cot side) or if your hands are visibly soiled, please wash your hands using soap and water at the basins within the nurseries.
- Whilst your baby is in the Neonatal Unit, we ask you to follow 'bare below the elbows', which means removing all hand and wrist jewelry, apart from a wedding ring. This will help you to clean your hands effectively, to help protect your baby.