

Link nurse/ Named nurse on NICU

Role

Aim: To provide support to a designated baby and their family whilst on the neonatal and transitional care unit.

Role is to include:

- Introduce the family to their link nurse and the role of the link nurse
- Introduction to the neonatal unit and the neonatal team
- Regular 'check ins' and updates with the family on how they are doing, how the baby is doing
- Sign posting the family to support available including- the chaplain, birth reflections, community team, counselling, therapies team and financial support available
- Aim to see the family approx. once weekly
- To be a link between the family and the medical team and nursing team on shift
- To voice any concerns and raise any issues

Link Nurse Specifications

- Matron, Band 7 or ANNP
- Band 6 and Band 5 QIS nurses
- Band 4 and band 5 to be considered dependent on the case. For babies transferred from ITU to room 3 and for NAS babies.

Criteria for babies

- < 32 weeks gestation
- Sick term babies- HIE babies
- This is not an exhaustive list and decisions will be made on a case by case decision

Contact

Aim to provide weekly check ins with the family, this can be carried out in person or via phone when on shift.

- To always use a work phone to contact the family if not in person
- Contact can take place at the bed side, in the parents room or an available meeting room
- Document any contact with parents and family in the blue social notes under the heading 'Link Nurse'.

Support

Support is available to the link nurse if required-

- Speak to team leader
- Matron
- Senior colleagues including Band 7 team and ANNP team
- Chaplain
- Well-being leader