

Grantley Stable Neonatal Unit

Back Transfer Preparation



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What is a Back Transfer?

This is when your baby is transferred to your local hospital for ongoing care.

Even if you were booked to deliver at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH), Back Transfer will be arranged with the Special Care Nursery closest to your home.

This allows your local nursing and medical team to provide ongoing care for your baby and organise follow-up once ready for discharge home.

The Back Transfer of well babies is very important for our service as the RBWH is a tertiary referral centre which cares for babies from across Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

What happens when a baby is Back Transferred?

Your baby needs to be medically stable, and the receiving hospital able to care for them before being transferred. The Discharge Coordinators will discuss Back Transfer with you and can give you some information about your local nursery. Once your baby is stable for transfer, our team will call your local Special Care Nursery doctors and nurses to discuss and coordinate the transfer.

For hospitals that are close, an Ambulance with a nurse escort will transfer your baby/ies from the RBWH to your local hospital. Alternatively, the Neoreturn Service based here at the RBWH will transfer you and baby to your local hospital. (Please see the Neoreturn Brochure for further information). For hospitals that are further away your baby will travel with the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS). One of our nurses will take your baby to the airport in an Ambulance and then the RFDS flight nurse will care for your baby during the flight and to your local hospital.

Incubator or Capsule?

Babies can travel in either an incubator or capsule. The way that your baby travels depends on what they are currently nursed in, their age, corrected gestation, weight and medical history.

If your baby is suitable for a capsule, they may need to undergo a trial sitting in the capsule while having their oxygen saturations measured. This will let us know whether your baby will need an incubator for the journey instead of a capsule.





Can you travel with your baby?

Sometimes this is possible. For babies being transferred by Ambulance, if one parent would like to travel, we will notify the team doing the transfer; however this decision depends on the space available in the Ambulance and the transfer team. We suggest that you have alternative transport available.

For travel with the RFDS, often one parent is able to go on the flight. You will need to be ready to travel at any time of the day or night, and your luggage is restricted to 5kg. Sometimes babies will be transferred with our NeoResq (retrieval service). When this happens parents are unable to travel with their baby.

Can Back Transfers be cancelled?

Yes, unfortunately there can be delays or cancellations of transfers. This is usually due to:

- The local hospital not having a bed available in their nursery on the day of transfer.
- Nursing staff being unexpectedly unavailable to escort your baby on the transfer.
- An Ambulance or RFDS flight being unavailable on the day of transfer.
- Baby becomes unwell or unstable and is deemed unsuitable for transport by a medical officer

The Discharge Coordinator speaks each day with the transfer services and also gives you regular updates about your baby's transfer. Unfortunately, flights and ambulances can be unexpectedly cancelled at short notice even when plans for transfer have been made.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility while we try to coordinate a safe and speedy transfer.

Who do I contact with questions?

- **GSNU Special Care Nursery:** 3646 7834
- **GSNU Neonatal Discharge Coordinator:** 3647 3977

The Discharge Coordinators are available in the nursery Monday to Friday, 7am to 3:30pm. The nurse on shift in your room is also a great source of information.





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