

NeoHOME

Early discharge, support and care of your baby in the home

What is NeoHOME?

NeoHOME is an "early discharge" program which provides safe and supportive care for you and your baby at home. It allows you and your baby to leave hospital early and a neonatal nurse visits you at home. The neonatal nurse provides help with breast and bottle feeding, nasogastric tube feeding and weight reviews.

How do I know if my baby is able to go home with Neo HOME?

If your baby is 35 weeks or older, does not require a drip, and is having 2 to 3 breast or bottle feeds per day, then they can be considered for NeoHOME. You need to have a Medicare card and an address that you will be staying at for at least 6 weeks. You need to have a sleeping space set up for your baby and you need to have access to reliable transport (i.e. a car or someone who can drive you and the baby to the hospital).

How does it work?

NeoHOME supports you to take your baby home with a naso-gastric tube still in place. Once at home you continue to give nasogastric feeds while offering your baby breast or bottle feeds. A nurse will visit you each day and provide support with feeding until both you and the nurse are confident that your baby is able to take all their feeds from the breast or bottle. The nurse will weigh and check your baby and support you through this process. There is also after-hours telephone support from the nursery.

Once you are accepted on the program, the nursing team in Special Care Nursery will teach you how to give feeds via the nasogastric tube. They will also make sure that you feel confident to go home with your baby.



Consumers contributed to this information.

Frequently asked questions:

Can I have visitors at home?

Premature babies are very vulnerable to illness. We advise that you limit your visitors until your baby has completed the program. You should also ask any possible visitors not to come if they are unwell. You should ask your visitors not to kiss your baby. To ensure that each visit with your nurse is as beneficial as possible, only your baby, siblings, yourself and your partner should be at home when your nurse visits. If you have a support person staying with you, then they are also able to stay for the visit.

What do I do if I am worried about my baby?

You will be given a plan to follow if you become worried about your baby or if your baby becomes unwell. You will be able to contact your home visiting nurse between 7.30am and 4.00pm, seven days per week and after hours you will be able to speak to the nurses in Special Care Nursery. If your baby needs medical care, a transfer back into Special Care Nursery can be arranged.

Can I take my baby to the shops, kid's school, sporting events, restaurants or cafes?

We advise that you don't take your baby to places where there are large numbers of people until they have finished the program. Going for walks and going for coffee are good options. It is important to remember that premature babies are very vulnerable to illness.

Can I see the Lactation Consultant, Social Worker, Physiotherapist and Psychologist if we're on NeoHOME?

Yes, you can continue to access these supports. Our team will set up appointments for you if needed. The appointments might be in the hospital or by telehealth.

We understand that taking your baby home is very exciting, but it can also be a nervous time. NeoHOME is designed to help you to leave the hospital earlier while providing care and support to you and your baby at home.