

Information for Patients

Travelling in the ambulance with your baby

About Connect North West

Connect North West (Connect NW) is a network service responsible for the transfer of babies between Neonatal Units in Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria, Cheshire, Merseyside and North Wales. The team has one central base in Warrington and is made up of consultants, registrars, speciality doctors, advanced neonatal nurse practitioners (ANNPs) and nurses, all of whom are trained and experienced in transporting babies.



Travelling with your baby

Connect NW offer one parent/carer the opportunity to travel with their baby for out-patient appointments, return journeys to hospitals closer to home (repatriation), and some urgent transfers depending on the baby's stability. The parent travelling with their baby will be asked to read this leaflet and sign the consent form once they are ready for transfer.

Please note that the final decision to transfer your baby, or for a parent to accompany them, will be made by the transport team who transfers your baby, at the time of transfer.



In the ambulance

Due to seating and space restrictions only one parent may accompany their baby, with only one small piece of luggage. For safety, the parent must wear a seatbelt and always remain seated in the ambulance.

Departure from the referring hospital

To ensure a timely departure and to avoid delays, if you wish to travel with your baby, we request that you are present on the Neonatal Unit with your baby at the time of departure. Unfortunately, the transport team will be unable to wait for late arrivals.

Postnatal mothers

Either parent may travel with their baby. To ensure a mother is fit to travel safely, you must be discharged from hospital, medically fit and independently mobile to be able to walk to the ambulance.

Travel sickness

Please be aware that you will be seated in a backwards facing seat. On occasion the ambulance may be required to travel at speed and consequently the journey may feel bumpy, which may cause travel sickness. If you usually suffer from travel or motion sickness you may wish to make alternative travel arrangements.

Your baby's safety

The transport team's priority is the safe transfer of your baby. On the day of transfer the team will assess your baby's fitness to travel. Very occasionally the transport team may feel it is not safe or appropriate to transfer your baby at this time. Should this happen, you will be given a detailed explanation, and the transfer will be rearranged for a later date when it is safe for your baby to be transferred. As a minimum, all babies are accompanied by an experienced transport nurse for their journey, and either a medic or advanced neonatal nurse practitioner (ANNP) when required.

Equipment used during transfer

Prior to departure the transport team will explain any equipment your baby may require. Your baby will travel in a heated transport incubator similar to the one pictured. The incubator locks securely into the ambulance and soft Velcro straps ensure your baby is safely secured in the incubator.



Monitors and alarms

The transport team will continuously monitor your baby and record readings from the monitor during the transfer. Bumpy roads can cause false alarms on the monitor to trigger, so please be aware that the alarms may go off several times during the journey.

Keeping you informed

The transport team will update you about your baby's condition prior to the transfer and they will try their best to keep you updated throughout the journey. Should your baby need urgent treatment during the transfer, the team will need to focus solely on your baby and will give explanations afterwards, when safe to do so.

I have received and read the information leaflet 'Travelling in the Ambulance with Your Baby' and understand the transport team role and my responsibilities during transfer.



I wish/do not wish to travel with my baby (please delete as appropriate).

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____