Rural follow-up

If you live outside the Perth metropolitan area you may still choose to have your follow-up appointments at KEMH or PMH.

However if transport and distance are a problem, our follow-up coordinator will discuss the availability of other services and arrange any referrals prior to your baby being discharged.

Rural Paediatric Service

The Rural Paediatric team visits many country centres regularly. If this service is available in your area, we will help you make appointments with the team.

Local paediatrician

A paediatrician (specialist children’s doctor) may be available in your local area to monitor your baby’s development. Your baby’s medical summary will be sent to the paediatrician. This provides details of any problems that require further follow-up.

Local GP

Where specialist services are not available, your GP can liaise with the hospital to monitor your baby’s development. Your baby’s medical summary will be sent to the GP.

Developmental questionnaires

These are an essential part of follow-up care for all rural babies, especially for babies who do not have access to a clinic or specialist paediatrician for their regular assessments.
Follow-up schedule
Your baby needs follow-up at regular intervals:
- Soon after discharge
- At four months
- At eight months
- At 12 months for a detailed developmental assessment
Some babies may be recommended for longer-term follow-up.

Adjustment for preterm babies
If your baby was born preterm the appointment dates are adjusted for prematurity. For example, a baby born three months early will have the 12-month developmental check at 15 months of age.

Developmental questionnaires
These help to assess your baby's progress and monitor growth and behaviour.
You will receive a questionnaire to complete prior to each follow-up appointment.

Please bring this to your appointment or return it in the prepaid envelope.

You may receive further questionnaires about your child at two and three years of age. These monitor your child’s progress and provide an overall picture of how our 'special graduates' progress during early childhood. This valuable information from parents better informs us to assist other families.

Please let the follow-up co-ordinator know if your address has changed.

Metropolitan follow-up
Appointments are made to see a consultant neonatal paediatrician in the Follow-up Clinic at either KEMH or PMH.
You will be notified of your appointment times.
Details of the 12 month developmental assessment appointment will be posted to you about four weeks before the appointment.
If you have any queries or wish to change an appointment date, you can telephone:
- KEMH - (08) 6458 1260
- PMH - (08) 9340 8696

It is important that you notify us of any change of address.

Longer-term follow-up
Many babies are seen again at 24 months and these assessments are carried out by our paediatricians and psychologists.
Some babies may require further developmental assessments beyond 24 months of age.
If recommended, these normally take place at the State Child Development Centre (SCDC) Rheola Street, West Perth. Phone (08) 9426 9480.

These appointments will be coordinated from the SCDC and you will be notified by mail.

Neonatal Follow-up Program
The Neonatology Clinical Care Unit (NCCU) provides follow-up care for babies who may be vulnerable to developmental challenges after birth due to any of the following:
- Preterm birth (before 32 weeks)
- Birth weight (less than 1500 grams)
- Major surgery in the neonatal period
- Seizures or fits
- Condition at birth
- Serious illnesses such as meningitis
The program monitors your baby’s progress through early life and provides expert advice and intervention where appropriate.
The program is offered by the Special Care Nursery at KEMH and Ward 6B at PMH.