



## NCCU CLINICAL GUIDELINES SECTION: 19

### TRANSFER AND DISCHARGE

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Transfer and discharge  
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Neonatology Clinical Guidelines  
King Edward Memorial/Princess Margaret Hospitals  
Perth Western Australia

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## DISCHARGE GUIDELINES FOR BABIES TAKEN INTO CARE BY DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION OFFICE

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Privacy laws do not allow disclosure of the mother's medical conditions without her permission. Therefore unless you have the consent of the mother (and document this in the baby's notes) then you can not disclose any of the mother's medical conditions (eg her hepatitis C status or drug use) to the foster carers. The foster families can be told, in the case of blood borne viruses, that universal precautions should be used until the status of the baby is known which is likely by 18 months of age. There is frequently a history of maternal drug use in babies taken into care. If there is a history of maternal drug use then the baby must stay in hospital for observation for drug withdrawal at least 5 days. Again unless there is permission from the mother this information can not be disclosed to the foster family. Inevitably however foster parents may assume maternal drug use, this is unavoidable, but the mother's medical history may not be told to them directly and access to the medical records is prohibited.

Decision to discharge the baby must be discussed with a Consultant or Senior Registrar and Social Work department.

Prior to discharge, follow up appointments to be organised by CNC/co-ordinator include:

1. Referral to the SCN Home visiting nurse for at least 2 home visits at the foster carer's home.
2. Outpatient appointment with Consultant/Senior Registrar about 2 weeks after discharge
3. If the mother is Hepatitis C positive then medical staff to complete a referral to Infectious disease clinic for Hepatitis C testing at 18 months of age, include on the referral a note that the baby is a under the care of DCP.
4. If appropriate for the baby arrange milk room visits or physiotherapy appointments
5. Discharge summaries to go to GP and the relevant Department of Child Protection Office
6. Purple book can be given to foster family
7. STORK discharge summary should be posted to the Child Health Nurse (to maintain the mother's confidentiality) and not put in the Purple book.
8. Ward clerk to change TOPAS address to the relevant Department of Child Protection office.