

NICU babies returning to Base Hospital

Your baby was flown to Wellington for specialist services offered here. In some cases it was because your nearest specialist hospital had no beds available at the time.

We understand that being away from home, whanau/family and friends is very difficult at a time when you need their love and support the most. As soon as we possibly can, we will return you to your nearest base hospital.

The timing of this is dependent on several factors:-

- Baby's gestation and weight that your base hospital is able to care for
- Your baby being medically stable enough for transport
- A bed being available at the time your baby is ready to go back
- Availability of the aircraft and weather conditions

Your own District Health Board pays for your baby's return trip home. This usually includes 1 parent/family member only. Any other members of the family who have travelled to Wellington will need to arrange their own transportation back.

Your baby will be looked after by one of our NICU flight nurses throughout the transport, from hospital to hospital. He/she will travel in a car seat, cot or fully equipped transport incubator (see below), depending on their needs.

Sometimes your base hospital will pick your baby up themselves.

We have limited space on the Air Ambulance for luggage, usually 1 bag and 1 chilli bin of breast milk. Please discuss this with your nurse if you have a large stock of breast milk.

We will try to give you as much notice as possible (several days) but sometimes things can happen very quickly due to circumstances (within 2 hours). Likewise, a flight that has been arranged can be cancelled at any time up until take-off, due to an emergency call or the weather.

This can be extremely frustrating and upsetting when you are so keen to get home, and have to rearrange plans. We will do whatever we can to assist you and keep you informed.

It has been a pleasure to look after your baby and whanau/family during their stay in NICU Wellington Hospital. We wish you well for the future.

Contact us

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