

WELLINGTON NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU) INFORMATION SHEET

Hi and welcome to NICU,

We hope you have a rewarding placement and gain a good understanding of the functioning of our NICU and how we provide and optimize care to a very fragile and vulnerable neonatal population.

In Wellington NICU we look after babies from 23 weeks gestation to 40 weeks +.

The babies in our care may require intensive care for a variety of reasons relating to either their early gestation/ problems during the antenatal period/ labour and delivery or perhaps babies with chromosomal anomalies or congenital abnormalities that may or may not require surgery. Those no longer requiring intensive care may need support for transitioning towards discharge. We at NICU aim to provide a family centered environment which focusses on both a gestational and neurodevelopmental model of care.

I am one of the educators in NICU and my portfolio includes nursing and midwifery student placements. I will send you rosters and take you through a half day orientation when you first arrive. If you are on a 3 week (shorter placement) it is unlikely that you will be assigned a specific preceptor. Therefore you will be working alongside a variety of neonatal nurses who are also rostered on the day.

On your first day, please arrive in NICU in time for a 07h00 handover (Level 4, Wellington Regional Hospital main building). You may want to get here 10 min prior to find the handover room. Just buzz at the main NICU entrance, state that you are on a student placement and you will be let in and shown to the staff corridor and handover room. I will meet you there.

I will assign you a locker to share with other students and have temporary locks and keys that you can use. At the commencement of your placement, I will also give you a temporary swipe card which you will need to return (along with locker keys) when your placement has finished. The shifts required of you are Mon-Fri, a mixture of AM's and PM's, the hours are 0700-1530hrs (AM), 1500-2300hrs (PM).

I will give you a printed handout of information when you get here and we will go through this together on your first day.

Your first day will involve a half-day orientation with me in the classroom followed by working clinically in the afternoon together with a preceptor until 15h30. The morning's topics include a NICU tour followed by some education sessions on our model of care, infant assessment, infant feeding, hypoglycemia, thermoregulation, infection prevention and control and hand hygiene practices, and student expectations and tasks.

There is no specific pre-reading required before starting your placement here. However, you may find it advantageous to do some light research and reading on some of the above topics. The student handbook provides a list of student objectives. You may also want to identify and draw up some of your own learning needs and goals to work towards during your time with us.

We look forward to welcoming you to NICU!

Kind regards

Sarah Gillon

Nurse Educator

NICU, Wellington Regional Hospital

Sarah.Gillon@ccdhb.org.nz