

To all students on NICU Placement,

As you know we look after a very fragile and vulnerable population in NICU and therefore we need to have forethought as to how we implement thorough and effective infection prevention and control policies. This includes hand hygiene which remains the single most important factor in reducing risk of infection. I have listed below the practices that we would ask students to abide by during their NICU placement:

- 1) Prior to commencing your placement, please check the skin integrity of all areas of the body which may desquamate over a patient/ infant – such as hands, forearms, elbows, face, neck and head. If you have any concerns or skin breakdowns such as cracks, rashes, open wounds, or acute exacerbations of eczema, dermatitis, psoriasis or other; you are advised to visit your treatment / medical provider to have this assessed and treated prior to starting your placement here. At the commencement of your placement you will be asked to have these areas checked by myself/ one of the charge nurses and you may be advised to visit the staff occupational health department here. If you have a “clean cut” please cover this with a plaster. We will assess this on your first day here.
- 2) Please have fingernails free of nail polish and nail edges short and smooth. No artificial nails may be worn.
- 3) Please remove all hand and wrist jewelry and watches. A single flat band may be worn on a finger as a symbol of union/ wedding band.
- 4) Please remove any nasal piercings prior to and for the duration of your placement. Research has shown that individuals with nasal piercings have a higher than normal Staphylococcus aureus load in the nasal area.
- 5) Long hair must be tied back.
- 6) No cardigans/ jackets/ lanyards to be worn in the clinical area.

During your orientation you will be given a comprehensive teaching session on infection prevention and control policies in NICU, including hand hygiene practices and products used. If you experience irritation, burning or skin breakdown when using these products please notify the charge nurse immediately.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation on these matters.

Kind regards,

Sarah Gillon  
Nurse Educator  
NICU