

North Bay Regional Health Centre

Women and Children Preventing Infant Abduction: A Parent's Guide

Throughout your stay at the North Bay Regional Health Centre, we will work to keep your baby safe. It is important for you to learn about security procedures and what can be done to prevent infant abduction.

What is infant abduction?

Infant abduction occurs when a baby is taken without the parents' consent. Abduction from a birthing facility is a rare event, which creates an immediate crisis for all concerned.

How will my baby and family be protected?

The Birthing Unit, NICU and Pediatrics each have specific procedures to ensure the safety of your baby.

- After delivery, you and your newborn will have identical identification bracelets applied.
- Another bracelet for security may be placed on your baby. This will be determined based on the location your baby will be staying (example: in your room vs NICU). These security tags will trigger an alarm that will notify nursing staff and security if your baby is out of the permitted zones.
- If you and your baby are separated, your identification bracelets should be checked when you are reunited.

Who is allowed to care for my baby?

We want you to feel safe at all times. Only certain staff members are allowed to care for your baby. You have the right to, and should ask to, see the hospital photo identification badge (ID) of your health care providers. Always check the photo ID before allowing anyone to provide care for your baby. Your nurse will introduce themselves to you when you first meet. Any time your baby must leave your room for tests or procedures, you or your support person may accompany the baby.

What can I do?

- Always move your baby from one place to another in a bassinet. This includes when you go for a walk around the unit. *Please do not be offended* if you are asked to show your ID bracelets, this is to protect you and your baby.
- Never leave your baby unsupervised. When you go to the washroom or shower, bring the bassinet close to the washroom.
- Be curious with people entering your room or those inquiring about your baby, even if they wear hospital uniforms. Notify hospital staff immediately if you are concerned.

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