

## About GMNeTS

The Greater Manchester, East Cheshire and High Peak Neonatal Transport Service (GMNeTS) is a network service that transfers babies requiring intensive care between hospitals throughout the North West of England. The team is based in Manchester and is made up of doctors, Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioners and nurses, all of whom are trained and experienced in transporting sick and premature babies.

## Why transfer my baby?

If your baby is very small or very sick it may be necessary to transfer him/her to a unit that can offer a higher level of neonatal intensive care. There are many reasons why babies need to be transferred, the main ones being prematurity, breathing disorders, problems due to the way a baby's organs have grown, surgical conditions and problems due to difficult births.

## What happens next?

When the transport team arrives they may spend some time on the unit evaluating your baby's condition. They might insert extra drips through which fluids and medication can be given and they may also make changes to the ventilation and treatment that your baby is receiving to ensure that he/she is well enough to transfer and remains well during the transfer. The transport team will explain

everything to you but please feel free to ask any questions you might have. You will be given the opportunity to see and touch your baby in the incubator before the team leaves. Please note that if you have more than one baby that needs transferring they will be transported separately.

## How your baby is transported

Small sick babies get cold very quickly so when your baby is ready to travel he/she will be moved into a special transport incubator. This will ensure that your baby is kept warm during the transfer. The transport incubator has a ventilator attached to it so we can continue to support your baby's breathing if necessary. We can also monitor your baby's vital signs such as heart rate, breathing rate, blood pressure, oxygen levels and temperature.

Pumps will be used to give all the drugs and fluids your baby is currently receiving as well as any additional ones that might be needed during the transfer.

The incubator locks securely into an ambulance so that the transfer can take place. We are sorry but parents cannot travel in the ambulance with their baby due to space restrictions. If you are travelling by car please do not follow close behind the ambulance as we may be travelling at speed.

## How do I find the receiving hospital?

Before the transport team leave you will be given a map and directions telling you how to get to the hospital, where the nearest car park is and where the neonatal unit is located within the hospital. You will also be given the neonatal unit's telephone number.

## On arrival

Before leaving the transport team will give you an approximate time of arrival but this will be very dependent upon traffic conditions and may not be exact. If you are not travelling to the hospital then once we have arrived and handed your baby over to the doctors and nurses looking after him/her we will telephone you with an update about how your baby was during the transfer.

Visiting hours on neonatal units may vary. You may telephone any time of the day or night. The staff on the unit will be happy to discuss any questions you have about your baby's treatment and progress but will not give out any information to other family members or friends.

## Timescales

The length of time your baby will need to stay in intensive care depends on many things such as how premature he/she was, birth weight, the problems they had and any complications that may arise.

However, once your baby is well enough, arrangements will be made for your baby to be moved back to your local hospital. We try to do this as soon as possible to minimise visiting difficulties but occasionally, if your local hospital's neonatal unit is full, the transfer has to be delayed. The hospital staff looking after your baby will talk to you about the transfer closer to the time.

### Finally

In order to be able to maintain a high standard of care and to continually improve our transport service, you may be asked to fill in an anonymous questionnaire relating to the care given by the transport team and how informed you felt during the transfer of your baby. This allows us to enhance our communication skills and take on board any suggestions you have about other ways in which our service could be improved. The questionnaire will be posted to you after the transfer has taken place and can be filled in at your leisure. Please remember that it is only through your feedback that we can address any issues that arise.

Thanking you in anticipation.

The GMNeTS Transport Team

## Contacting GMNeTS

For information and details about our service please telephone:

0161 276 6331



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Greater Manchester,  
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Children, Young People and Families Network

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### Parent Information

