NEONATAL UNIT EQUIPMENT

London Neonatal OPERATIONAL DELIVERY NETWORK

Parenteral Nutrition (PN)

Fluid

PN

Nutrition delivered straight into the blood stream, that helps your baby to grow until they are able to take enough milk to meet their nutritional needs

Infusion pumps

These are used to deliver fluids, blood products and medication into a baby's vein or artery

Feeding pump

This slowly delivers milk into your baby's stomach via a nasogastric or orogastric tube

Feeding tube

This is a fine, flexible tube passed through the nose (nasogastric / NGT) or mouth (orogastric / OGT) to the stomach. This allows milk and, if needed, medication to be given to baby until they are ready for suck feeds

Venous access

A thin tube which is inserted into a vein, usually in the hand/arm, foot/leg or umbilicus. Intravenous (IV) lines are used to deliver fluids (including PN) and medication into your baby's blood stream

Arterial access

A thin tube inserted into an artery which may be in the umbilicus (belly button) or in an arm or leg. Arterial lines allow accurate blood pressure monitoring and also a way to collect blood samples

Apnoea monitor

This is a small machine that monitors your baby's breathing movements. This may be a mattress or a small sensor on their abdomen (tummy)

Phototherapy

A light of a certain wavelength that is used to treat jaundice. During treatment, usually your baby will wear just a nappy and eye shades

Incubator

This is used to keep babies warm and comfortable and allow us to see them easily. Some very small babies will also need extra moisture in the warm air in their incubator, this is called environmental humidity

ET Tube

This is a flexible tube passed through the baby's mouth or nose into the trachea (windpipe) which is attached, via tubing, to the ventilator

Suction unit

This is used to gently clear secretions from your baby's mouth, airways and ET Tube

Ventilator

This machine will breathe for your baby if they are not well enough to do so themselves. It ensures that your baby gets the correct amount of warm, moist air and/or oxygen into their lungs with each breath and that carbon dioxide is removed. This is via an ET Tube

Vital signs monitor

This displays baby's observations on a screen continuously. *Vital signs may include heart rate, respiratory rate (breathing), oxygen saturations and blood pressure

CPAP machine

This machine supports your baby's own breathing. It delivers Continuous Positive Airway Pressure using warm, moist air and/or oxygen. This is via short, soft prongs or a small mask which snugly fit on your baby's nose

High flow nasal cannula

This delivers warm, moist air and/or oxygen at a high flow to support your baby's own breathing. This is delivered by short, soft nasal cannula that sit just inside your baby's nose. You may hear this called Vapotherm® or Optiflow®

Saturation monitor (pulse oximeter)

This measures the amount of oxygen in your baby's blood and displays their heart rate. A small sensor is wrapped gently around your baby's hand or foot and works by shining a light through their skin

Thermometer

This is a device that is used to measure your baby's temperature

Sounds and alarms

There are many sounds and noises on the neonatal unit that may be new to you. This includes equipment that has alarms which are personalised for your baby and help us to monitor them closely

Patient chart

This is where we record information about your baby's condition. This may include baby's fluid input and output, vital signs* and other information about your baby's care

This poster introduces some of the equipment you might see on the neonatal unit. Neonatal unit staff can provide further information. While the equipment described in this poster is necessary to facilitate the medical and nursing care of your baby, your baby also needs the love and care that only you as a parent or caregiver can provide.

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www.londonneonatalnetwork.org.uk

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