

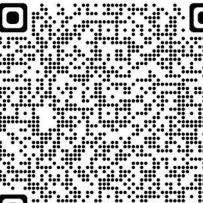


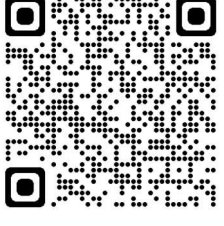




Screening, Tests, and Immunisations

Below is some information about immunisations and screening tests your baby may have during their time on the neonatal unit. They are very common, and most are routinely completed on all babies who are born at full term and not requiring a neonatal admission. Before any of these tests are carried out on your baby a health professional will explain the reasoning for having them, and you will be asked for consent.

<p>Blood Tests</p>	<p>Most blood samples will be taken by pricking your baby's heel with a small needle, it is important to monitor your baby's blood as it's the transport system of the body and has many important jobs. Lots of information on how your baby is doing can be gained from blood tests.</p> <p>For more information, please scan the QR code.</p>	
<p>Blood Transfusion</p>	<p>Sometimes a blood test can show that your baby's blood has low levels of haemoglobin (HB), which is a chemical which helps transport oxygen around the body in our red blood cells. Low HB levels indicate low red blood cell levels, which may cause the body to not receive enough oxygen. Having a blood transfusion gives your baby extra red blood cells, which will increase HB levels.</p> <p>For more information, please scan the QR code.</p>	
<p>Newborn and Infant Physical Examination (NIPE)</p>	<p>This is a physical examination performed by a doctor looking after your baby. It should be completed within 72 hours after birth, sometimes this is not suitable if your baby is too unwell and will be completed as soon as possible. The examination is repeated at 6 to 8 weeks of age. The examination is used to prompt early referral for conditions relating to the eyes, heart, hips, and testes (if applicable).</p> <p>For more information, please scan the QR code.</p>	
<p>Head Scan</p>	<p>If your baby was born before 33 weeks gestation, they will have a head scan performed while on the neonatal unit. This is a painless procedure which is vital in detecting any brain abnormalities that can occur in premature babies. In some cases, especially babies born before 29 weeks these scans will be repeated over the first week of life. This is normal and is to monitor any changes that can occur in this time. The cranial ultrasounds are performed by a specialist radiographer, who will write a report on the findings and a doctor will then discuss these with you.</p>	

<p>Newborn bloodspot</p>	<p>Every baby in England is offered newborn blood spot screening also known as the heel prick test, ideally when they are 5 days old. The NHS screens babies for 9 conditions, including sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis, plus some other rare conditions most families will likely never have heard of before.</p> <p>For more information, please scan the QR code.</p>	
<p>Newborn Hearing test</p>	<p>The newborn hearing screen test helps identify babies who may have permanent hearing loss as early as possible. However, it can be common to not get a clear response from the 1st test and this does not mean your baby has hearing problems.</p> <p>For more information, please scan the QR code.</p>	
<p>Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)</p>	<p>This is an eye examination for all babies who are born less than 31 weeks gestation or weighing less than 1.5kg at birth. They will have it at around 4 weeks of age. ROP is an eye disease that can happen to babies who are premature.</p> <p>For more information, please scan the QR code.</p>	
<p>Immunisations</p>	<p>Immunisations are an important way to offer protection from serious disease. All babies in the UK are offered immunisations, this is the same for babies born prematurely. In some cases, extra vaccinations will also be required for preterm babies. If your baby requires these extra vaccines this will be discussed in depth with you and the medical team looking after you & your baby.</p> <p>For more information, please scan the QR code.</p>	
<p>Discharge Examination</p>	<p>This is an examination performed on the day or days up to your baby been discharged. It is like the NIPE and is completed by a doctor. Anything highlighted on the NIPE or not picked up on the first examination can then be followed up in the community by the appropriate specialist professional.</p>	