Keeping Your Baby Safe

Tips to ensure the safety of your infant

Your peace of mind and your baby’s safety are top priorities. The Labor and Delivery Unit and the Postpartum Unit are equipped with state-of-the-art security to protect your baby.

- The doors to both units are always kept closed.
- After delivery, your nurse will fasten an identification band on your wrist, your partner’s, and your baby’s.
- Your baby will receive an ankle band that is programmed into the security system. Should your baby be brought near an exit, alarms will sound and all doors on both units will lock.

There has never been an abduction at University of Washington Medical Center, or even an attempt – and it is our responsibility to keep your baby safe.

Tips to Consider While in the Hospital

- It is normal for new parents to be concerned about the safety of their baby. Be careful and watchful of your newborn at all times. Always keep your infant in your direct line-of-sight, even when you go to the bathroom.

- Let your nurse know if there is any personal situation the medical center should be aware of that might place the parent or infant at risk.

- Never leave your baby alone in your room. If you leave the room or plan to take a nap, have a family member watch your baby or alert your nurse.
• Keep your baby’s crib on the window side of the bed. Push your baby in the crib if you are walking in the hallway.

• Become familiar with the nurses and others assigned to you and your infant. Take a good look at them.

• If someone requests to take your baby from your room, make sure you know why. Do not allow your infant to exit your room with anyone who is not wearing a photo identification badge.

• Ask questions. Question unfamiliar persons entering your room and persons asking about your infant. Question them even if they are in hospital clothes or seem to have a reason for being there. Alert the nurses’ station right away if you are concerned. You can push the Nurse Call Button at your bedside or come out to the Nurses’ Desk. Be sure to keep your baby with you at all times.

• If tests or procedures are needed for your baby, find out where your baby will be and how long the baby will be there. It is all right to go with your baby to watch the test.

**After You Go Home**

• Do not allow anyone into your home you do not know without checking for identification.

• Only allow persons into your home who are well known by your family. It is not advised to allow anyone into your home who you have met only briefly since you became pregnant or gave birth to your baby. There have been cases where an abductor has made first contact with a mother and baby in the hospital or a public place such as a clinic or mall, and later abducted the infant from the family home.

• Be alert to people you have just met who volunteer to watch your baby, especially in public places and public restrooms. Take your baby into the stall with you.
Questions?
Call 206-598-5600

Your questions are important. If you have questions about yourself, call your obstetric provider during office hours. Clinics are closed 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. and on weekends.

When your provider’s office is closed, call:
Labor and Delivery: 206-598-4616

- Think about the risk you may be taking for infant abduction when you place a birth notice in the newspaper (never list your address) or if you use outdoor decorations to announce your infant’s arrival, such as balloons, large floral wreaths, or wooden storks.

Know Your Resources
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
800-THE-LOST or 800-843-5678
www.missingkids.com