

Infant Safety in the Hospital

Tips for ensuring your infant's safety

We want to make sure that your baby is safe while in our care. You are an important partner with us in this effort. The security measures, guidelines, and resources in this chapter can help keep your baby safe.

Security Measures

Your safety and your baby's safety are top priorities. We want to make sure that all mothers and babies in our care are protected.

For this reason, UW Medicine has many security measures in place. Our units have state-of-the-art security to protect your baby:

- The doors to our units are always kept closed.
- After delivery, your nurse will put an identification band on your baby's wrist. The band will have a unique hospital number and barcode on it. The mother's first and last name will also be on the band.
- Your baby will also wear an ankle band that is programmed into the hospital security system. If your baby is brought near an exit, alarms will sound and all doors on both units will lock.



Your safety and your baby's safety are top priorities, both in the hospital and after you go home.

Safety Guidelines in Your Hospital Room and Unit

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 sight, even when you go to the bathroom.

- Never leave your baby alone in your room.
- Let your nurse know if there is any personal situation we should know about that might place you or your baby at risk.
- Keep your baby's crib between your bed and the window.



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- Babies are always transported in their bassinet in the hospital. Transporting your baby this way will help keep your baby from falling out of someone's arms. No one in the hospital should carry your baby in their arms. This includes you and your family.
- Get to know the nurses and others who are caring for you and your infant. Take a good look at them.
- If someone asks to take your baby from your room, make sure you know why. Do **not** let your baby leave your room with anyone who is not wearing a photo ID badge.

Falls

Infants can and do fall. Most newborn falls occur when a baby is left alone on an unsafe surface or slips out of a parent's arms when the parent falls asleep. To learn more, see the chapter "Keeping Your Baby Safe" in the book *Caring for Yourself and Your New Baby*. You will receive this book after your baby is born.

General Hospital Safety

- Ask questions. Question anyone who wants information about your baby, even if you know them. Question them even if they are in hospital clothes or seem to have a reason for being there. **Call 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 (with your baby).
- If your baby needs tests or procedures, find out where your baby will be and how long your baby will be there. You can go with your baby to the test or procedure.

Baby Safety Classes

To learn more about keeping your infant safe, take a baby safety class that covers infant CPR and general safety. Visit these websites for more information:

- UW Medicine classes: www.uwmedicine.org/services/obstetrics/childbirth-classes
- American Heart Association: www.cprseattle.com/adult-child-infant-cpr-aed-first-aid
- Seattle Children's: www.seattlechildrens.org/classes-community/classes-events/infant-and-child-cpr

Questions?

Your questions are important. If you have questions or concerns about your safety or your baby's safety while you are in the hospital, talk with your nurse or other staff.