

# Newborn Safety in the Hospital

## Your Family's Safety is Important

- Each Birth Center has its own security plan. Your nurses will review this plan with you.
- After birth, you, your baby and one support person will be fitted with numbered identification bands that all have matching numbers. You and your baby's band numbers will be matched after any time you and your baby are apart.

**It is very important that you leave the bands on you and your baby until you leave the hospital.** Only you or the banded support person can pick up the baby from the nursery. If a band falls off, please tell your nurse.

- The nursery is locked for your family's safety. Babies must stay in the Birth Center at all times unless baby needs to go to another department for tests. In that case, you may go with your baby to and from any test or procedure.
- If you are alone in your room, always keep your baby where you can see him or her.
  - If you have to go to the bathroom or use the shower, shut the room door and leave the bathroom door open.
  - When possible, keep the crib on the side of your bed that is away from the door.
- Keep your baby in the crib when he or she is not being held. Do not lay your baby on the bed and walk away. Even newborns can fall.



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**Make sure the matching ID bands stay on you, your baby and your support person at all times during your hospital stay.**

- Keep the crib with your baby at all times while in the hospital.
- A banded person must be with your baby when outside of your room.
- **Do not** give your baby to anyone unless that person has a name badge with the special color coding that your nurse will tell you about.
 

If an unknown person comes into your room asking questions about your baby or asking to take your baby, call your nurse so he or she can identify the person.
- If you plan to leave the Birth Center, tell the nurse you are going to leave your baby with a friend or family member.

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- Nationally, there have been reports of accidents involving babies falling to the floor in the hospital when parents fall asleep while feeding or holding their babies. There have also been incidents where a baby has almost been smothered by a sleeping parent.

Do not sleep with your baby while relaxing in bed, on a couch or in a chair.

- Being tired or having pain medicine in your body may increase your risk of falling asleep while holding your baby.
  - When you feel sleepy or plan on sleeping, place your baby in the crib.
  - Please call your nurse if you need any help.
- Read the information in your folder about safe sleep and the best positions for placing your baby to sleep.
  - The best way to protect your baby from germs is making sure anyone who handles your baby washes his or her hands well.