

Paediatric Infant Perinatal Emergency Retrieval (PIPER) Return Service

Moving your baby closer to home

Parent Information Sheet



When your baby is bigger and stronger and no longer in need of specialised care, we will move your baby to a hospital nursery closer to your home.

As the time to move your baby approaches, you and the medical staff will talk about when, where, and how your baby will be moved. We highly recommend you visit the nursery that will be caring for your baby before your baby is moved.

Preparing for the journey

Your baby will be collected by a PIPER Returns team and will be safely secured in the pre-warmed transport incubator. Up to 24 hours of EBM/Formula can also be transported. Your baby will be fed before the trip so should not need feeding during the transport.

The Journey

Babies are transported either by road, in a purpose-built PIPER ambulance, by Air Ambulance Victoria or Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). The mode of transport will depend on the distance to be travelled.



Your baby will be accompanied by an experience neonatal nurse and patient transport officer.

During the trip, your baby's vital signs are constantly monitored and, if needed, oxygen and intravenous fluids can be administered during transport.

Can I travel with my baby?

You may ask to accompany your baby; however, it is not always possible due to limited seating in both the road and air ambulances. Luggage is limited to 5kg in the air ambulance.

On arrival at the new nursery

Occasionally a baby will need oxygen for a short time after the journey. Some hospitals also like to observe the baby in an incubator for the first 24 hours even if he/she has previously been in an open cot.

Transport cost

Public to public/private hospitals are covered by the referring hospital. Fees apply for transfers from private hospitals.

Information Collection

PIPER collects information on your baby to improve our care. PIPER may share some information with other services that work together to improve care, but it will not be possible to identify your baby's details in this information. Please talk to a PIPER team member if you have any questions.



Feedback

We welcome your feedback and would appreciate your comments. Please refer to contact details below:

The Royal Children's Hospital,
50 Flemington Road Parkville Vic, 3052

Phone: 1300 659 803 (option 4)

Web: <https://www.rch.org.au/piper/>

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