
When You are Admitted to Hospital and Breastfeeding Information for Mothers and Families

What happens if you need to be admitted to the hospital and you are breastfeeding?

You will be admitted to the unit where you will get the care you need. This means you could be on any unit in St. Joseph's. Since your baby is breastfeeding, he or she needs to be in your room with you. However, your baby is not admitted and is called a 'pediatric visitor'.



Since you need to have your health care taken care of, your baby must be looked after by a responsible adult at all times. Your adult support person can be a member of your family or close friend but you must arrange for this.



Your adult support person is here to take care of your baby. For example, when your support person leaves the room your baby goes with the support person. Your adult support person stays at the hospital overnight with you and your baby. The adult support person can be different people during your hospital stay but your baby must be looked after by the adult support person at all times. A sleeping cot is provided for your support person.

You are able to breast feed anytime it does not interfere with your own health care. We can also provide a breast pump and store the breast milk anytime you want to pump your breasts.

What do I need to bring to this hospital for my baby?

You need to provide all of the baby care items needed.

This includes:

- diapers, baby wipes, baby clothes
- feeding equipment, baby food
- medications
- any other items your baby needs



Will my baby be safe in the hospital?

There are many ways we keep your baby safe:

- Your adult support person's job is to keep your baby clean and safe.
- Your baby will have a baby cot in your room for sleeping, changing and lying in.
- Members of the health care team should not pick up, touch or play with your baby in order to keep your baby free of infection.
- Members of the health care team and visitors must clean their hands before entering the room and after touching any surfaces to help prevent infection.
- Members of the health care team must also wear a gown when they need to pick up your baby.



What do I do if my baby needs medical care or emergency help when in the hospital with me?

- Your support person must take your baby to your family doctor or health care provider in the community
- If your baby needs Emergency help, the health care team on your unit will call an emergency response code for your baby and emergency help will come to your room
- For other emergency medical problems, your support person will be advised to take your baby to the Emergency Department at St. Joseph's Hospital

What do I do if I have questions or concerns?

- Talk to your nurse or any member of your health care team.
- You can also ask to talk to the Nurse Manager of the Unit.