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## Keeping Your Baby Safe

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Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**



Delivering a Healthy WA

## The information given below explains ways that you and the hospital staff can keep your baby safe.

### While in hospital

- All hospital workers have identification badges with colour photographs. Be aware of what the badge looks like. Be sure the face and picture on the badge are the same even if the person looks and acts like they work there.
- Before your baby leaves the birth room an identification name band, that matches your name and number, will be put on the baby following confirmation with you. This is replaced by two of the baby's own identification name bands when they are available. Again they are checked with your original identification name bands before applying.
- Your baby should remain on the ward until discharged home, unless receiving medical treatment in another part of the hospital.
- Do not give your baby to anyone who does not have the proper staff identification. You, or a designated family member, are always welcome to accompany your baby to other treatment areas within the hospital.
- If you leave your room/ward you will need to consider who will look after your baby, i.e. a family member or close friend. Inform a midwife on the ward the name of the person who is looking after your baby.

- Do not give your's or your baby's personal details, including ward location, to strangers or people you've just met.
- Your baby's weight, length, head circumference and any distinguishing features will be documented in the Neonatal Health Record.
- Start your own family photo album as soon as possible so you have photos of your baby.
- Alert staff if you see anyone or anything suspicious. Do not hesitate to call your midwife right away if you have any questions.
- Before you leave hospital, be clear about who might be coming to your home to give follow-up care. Know what identification they will use. Do not allow anyone into your home who says they are from the hospital without proper identification.

### At home

- Safety experts recommend against putting a birth announcement with your address or contact details in the newspaper, putting a sign in the yard or tying balloons to the mailbox. These may bring unwanted attention to you and your baby. Please consider the risks you take when publicising your baby's arrival.
- It is not advisable to allow anyone into your home that you do not know well, especially if you only met them briefly since you became pregnant or gave birth to your baby.