



**NCCU CLINICAL GUIDELINES**  
**SECTION: 20**

**PALLIATIVE CARE, GRIEF AND LOSS**

Section 20: Palliative care, grief and loss.  
Viewing the infant  
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Neonatology Clinical Guidelines  
King Edward Memorial/Princess Margaret Hospitals  
Perth Western Australia  
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## **VIEWING THE INFANT**

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### **AT KEMH**

Inpatients may view the infant in their room between 0830-2000hours. Nursing staff need to phone Perinatal Pathology on extension 2730 to inform them of the infant to be viewed.

- The on-call orderly is paged to collect the infant from Perinatal Pathology.
- Ward staff will dress or wrap the infant appropriately and labels are removed before meeting with the parents.
- At the end of the viewing, ward staff are to ensure the infant is labelled and wrapped correctly and then page the orderly to return the infant to Perinatal Pathology.

Following discharge the parents are able to spend time with their infant. From Monday to Friday 0800 – 1600 hrs, this can be done in Perinatal Pathology in the Viewing/Quiet room. Parents are asked to ring Perinatal Pathology to arrange a time.

Out of hours the Hospital Clinical Manager can be contacted to arrange a viewing in a suitable location.

### **AT PMH**

The parents are asked to ring the ward or the Social Worker to arrange a visit. The infant may be viewed at any time by family and friends – with a parent present or with parental consent.

- During office hours the PCA can access the mortuary key. Out of hours and at the weekend the Clinical Nurse Manager should be contacted to access the key to the mortuary. Nursing staff and the PCA/orderly collect the infant from the mortuary and ensure the infant is wrapped appropriately
- The parents can spend time in private with their infant in either a parent's room, if available, or the viewing room in the mortuary.
- At the end of the viewing, nursing staff are to ensure the outer wrapping around the infant is in place and has the addressograph securely fastened before returning the infant to the mortuary accompanied by the PCA/orderly with the key.