The Neonatal Managed Clinical Network (MCN) for the West of Scotland aims to:

- Deliver the best neonatal care for all babies and their families
- Make sure that mothers and babies are treated in the right hospital at the right time and by the right staff with the appropriate skills.

Your pregnancy and birth

You have booked to have your pregnancy care and birth in the West of Scotland at:

Name of Hospital: _______________________________

When you book midwifery and medical care for your pregnancy (Antenatal care) at your local Maternity Unit this also includes care for your baby (Neonatal care).

Neonatal Units in Scotland

Most babies are born healthy and well. However, if your baby develops problems after the birth they may need more specialist care. If a baby develops more serious problems, there are three regions in Scotland who organise this care:

1. West of Scotland (WoS)
2. North of Scotland (NoS) and
3. South East and Tayside (SEAT)

We aim to provide this in a Neonatal Unit within a maternity hospital in the West of Scotland that can best look after them. Sometimes we may need to move your baby to another hospital within the West of Scotland to get the care that they need. Very rarely we may have to move them further away to one of the other regions in Scotland to get the most appropriate care. However, staff will explain this to you.

Neonatal services provide specialist care for babies who are born prematurely or are ill. Most pregnancies and births in Scotland do not require neonatal services. However, for those babies that do need specialist care, it is important that their parents and family understand how we provide this care in NHS Scotland.

This information has been created by the Neonatal Managed Clinical Network (MCN) for the West of Scotland who aim to provide equal access to care for all newborns and their families.
What does the ‘level of care’ mean?

The hospitals which provide specialist care for newborn babies in the West of Scotland are referred to as “Level 2” or “Level 3" units, depending on what level of care they provide.

Level 2 Neonatal Units

These units provide care for newborn babies delivered after 28-30 weeks of pregnancy. Babies born after 28 weeks of pregnancy are less likely to have major health problems. However sometimes these babies can also become sick following birth and we need to transfer them to another hospital for intensive care (Level 3 Neonatal Unit).

Level 3 Neonatal Units

These units provide care for all babies born too soon, too small or too sick. If your baby was born before 28 weeks of pregnancy we may transfer them to a nearby Level 3 Neonatal Unit because they are much more likely to have health problems and may need specialist treatments.

Some babies will require transfer to The Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow, for surgical treatment or specialist services. When the health of your baby improves we will organise a transfer back to your local Neonatal Unit as soon as possible.

Transfer between Hospitals

In some cases, if we expect that your baby is very likely to need specialist intensive care after delivery, we may transfer you to this hospital before your baby is born. This will mean your baby will be born in a level 3 unit. This is called an in-utero transfer. We try to keep in-utero transfers as close to home as possible. We will always discuss with you the reasons for transferring you and your unborn baby.

A transfer after your baby is born is called an ex-utero transfer.

If your baby requires a transfer staff at your local hospital will aim to organise accommodation for you and your partner if you have been discharged.

Scottish Neonatal Transport Service – ScotSTAR

Transfers between units are managed and supported by the dedicated Scottish Neonatal Transport Service - ScotSTAR. This is staffed 24 hours a day by Consultant medical staff and nursing staff all of whom are specialists in the care and transfer of newborn babies.
Neonatal Units and their level of care

1. Princess Royal Maternity, Glasgow  
   Level 3

2. The Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow  
   Level 3 plus surgery and specialist services

3. Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley  
   Level 2

4. Wishaw General Hospital, Lanarkshire  
   Level 3

5. Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert  
   Level 2

6. Ayrshire Maternity Hospital, Kilmarnock  
   Level 3

7. Cresswell Wing, Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary  
   Level 2

How can I find out more about what is happening in this network?

The MCN have a parent’s subgroup for parents with experience of neonatal services. To help us improve services further please join our parents group by contacting our network office by telephone number:

0141 201 0641

or by email at:
FV-UHB.WOSMCN@nhs.net

Facebook search:  
‘West of Scotland Neonatal’

or use https://www.facebook.com/groups/neonatalmcnwos/
Support Organisations

**Bliss**

- **Bliss Family Support Helpline:** 0500 618 140
- **Website:** www.bliss.org.uk
- **Email:** scotland@bliss.org.uk

**Best Beginnings**

- **Website:** www.bestbeginnings.org.uk
- **Email:** info@bestbeginnings.org.uk

**Tamba**

- **Website:** www.tamba.co.uk
- **Email:** enquiries@tanba.co.uk

Scottish Neonatal Managed Clinical Network for Neonatology

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