



Follow-Up Appointment: Early Intervention or Early Childhood Intervention

The NICU team celebrates with you as your baby goes home! The ongoing health and development of your baby is important to us. Babies born premature, with low birth weight, or with other complications around birth are at higher risk for delays in development or problems with movement, feeding, and speech. *Early Intervention* is a free program offered by the state of Massachusetts that provides developmental screening and therapeutic services for infants from birth to 3 years of age.

What is Early Intervention?

- *Early Intervention (EI)* is a program providing hands-on guidance and instruction to help you promote your baby's best development monitoring movement, feeding, and language.
- EI experts include teachers and rehabilitation therapists such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech language pathologists.
- Because a baby's job is to play, EI experts use play activities to help your baby learn how best to move, feed, talk, and play.
- EI program staff can help connect you with other community resources to help you and your baby thrive.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about EI, please ask your baby's provider.

What is my local Early Intervention agency?

Name / Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

How do I set up the first appointment?

A referral to Early Intervention has been made for your baby. The first appointment should take place within 4 weeks of discharge from the NICU.

- o The EI office will call you to schedule your baby's appointment.
- o If you have not heard from the EI agency within 10 days of NICU discharge, you need to call the EI office to schedule your baby's appointment.

Important Things to Remember

- Each follow-up appointment with EI is important and is in addition to well-child check-ups with your baby's primary care provider and any high-risk infant follow-up appointments.
- If you are unable to keep this important follow-up appointment, please call to reschedule.

The above information is provided to help you better understand your baby's care. Always follow the instructions given by your baby's provider and ask questions if you have concerns about your baby.

Online Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/developmental-disabilities/Pages/Early-Intervention.aspx>

Massachusetts Department of Public Health:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/family-health/early-intervention/>

March of Dimes: <http://www.marchofdimes.org/>