



Information for Parents

The Day Your Baby Goes Home from the NICU

Congratulations! Your baby is close to going home. The purpose of this handout is to help prepare you for what will happen on the day of discharge. The discharge process can **take up to 3-4 hours on the day of NICU discharge** to complete.

There are tasks to complete on the day of discharge that are not usually done until you are about to leave the NICU. These include:

- The Discharge Instruction Sheet will be reviewed with you and you will receive a copy.
- You will have the option to read a **draft** Discharge Summary (this is a summary of your baby's hospital stay). It will be labeled with the word "Draft" on the front to distinguish it from the final document. Please review this document, mark any errors with a pen, and return it to your baby's nurse. Information that is accurate but sensitive will **not** be removed from the discharge summary. You will receive a "Final" discharge summary signed by the attending physician.
- The nurse will review the home feeding plan as well as any medication doses and administration instructions once more prior to discharge.
- Please complete the Discharge Readiness Questionnaire (purple sheets) and return it to the nurse. Your feedback from the questionnaire helps improve the discharge process.
- Secure the baby in the car seat/car bed

Before you leave the NICU, please take:

- Your baby/babies
- All your and your baby's personal belongings
- The baby's immunization booklet
- A copy of the **final** Discharge Summary signed by the attending neonatologist to take to your first pediatric appointment
- The Discharge folder with all handouts present and filled out, including: medication information, formula and breast milk recipes, home feeding plan, etc.
- Any remaining breast milk from refrigerator/freezer