

# IDENTIFICATION OF INFANTS IN THE NEONATAL DEPARTMENT

(In Conjunction with Policy and Procedures for the Correct Identification of Patients C0159)

## General Considerations

- Hospital wrist bands are the main means of identification.
- Patient wristbands that meet the NPSA's design requirement (see [www.npsa.nhs.uk](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk)) should be used.
- Only use white wrist bands printed on the unit based printer (or hand written in case of printer failure).

### **All patient identifiers should match across all electronic and paper patient record systems:**

- Newborns without a first name should be identified according to the following generic naming convention:

Babies born	Forename
One baby	Infant
First of two babies	Twin1
Second of two babies	Twin2
First of three babies	Triplet1
Second of three babies	Triplet2
Third of three babies	Triplet3
First of four babies	Quadruplet1
Second of four babies	Quadruplet2
Third of four babies	Quadruplet3
Fourth of four babies	Quadruplet4
<i>(continue to follow the same naming pattern)</i>	
Five babies	Quintuplet(& the birth order number)
Six babies	Sextuplet(& the birth order number)
Seven babies	Septuplet(& the birth order number)

- If any changes to an infant's name are required at any point during their admission, these should ideally be made prior to the next set of routine bloods (to avoid extra heel pricks or venepuncture) as a repeat group and save using the updated patient name will be required. Nursing staff should endeavour to remind the doctors that a repeat group and save is required whenever a name is changed/updated.
- Prior to the blood test, the name change/edit should be entered onto Oasis and then new wrist bands should be printed for the infant. Old wrist bands should be discarded in confidential waste. The updated wrist bands should be used to print labels for the repeat group and save sample. All other electronic systems e.g. Metavision and the cot card should also be amended to match Oasis. The blood gas list and patient list should also be changed. The blood sample form should be labelled "name change for patient" or similar to show the lab why a repeat group and save has been sent.
- All infants admitted to or transferred between hospital wards and other hospitals should have two name wristbands attached to limbs.
- Sick babies whose wrist bands have been removed should have both wristbands fixed visibly to the inside of the incubator.
- Additionally all infants should have an incubator or cot card attached to the outside of the incubator or cot.
- The information on the wristbands must be identical to that on the infant's cot card.
- The identity of the baby should be checked and recorded on the daily care plan by the attending nursing when first handling the baby at the beginning of each shift.
- Replace any ill-fitting or missing labels (if one still attached to baby) at first check.
- In the absence of any name bands, the infant's identity should be verified by two nurses who are responsible for checking the names of all the other babies in the nursery against their wristbands and cot cards. Two name bands should be written with

details obtained from the infant's notes and checked by both nurses, then rechecked with the baby's parents.

- Alert stickers should be used to highlight infants with similar or same names
- Any administration of drugs, procedures and blood products should be checked against the cot card and wristband.

**Include the following patient identifiers on two wristbands:**

- NHS number or temporary NHS number if one is not available
- Hospital number
- Last name
- First name
- Gender (female, male, unspecified)
- Date of birth

**Include the following patient identifiers on the incubator/cot card:**

- NHS number or temporary NHS number if one is not available
- Hospital number
- Last name
- First name
- Date and time of birth
- Gender (female, male, unspecified)
- Gestation
- Birthweight
- Booking hospital
- Parents' names
- Siblings' names
- Named Consultant