Optiflow

Parent / Caregiver Information

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

What is Optiflow?

Optiflow is a treatment used to provide a high flow of air/oxygen that is heated and moistened. Optiflow is delivered to your baby through small tubes that sit inside the nostrils. These tubes are called Nasal Cannulae. The warmed air flow will prevent the nose secretions from drying out.

Optiflow will improve the breathing effort from your baby by supporting their own respiratory effort. Optiflow distends the lung air sacs, assisting your baby's breathing efforts. This will improve oxygen uptake by the body and enhance growth and development.

Who needs Optiflow?

A baby who has Respiratory Distress Syndrome, or difficulty maintaining effective respirations

Babies who are premature and are having apneas (forgetting to breathe)

Babies that are being weaned off other forms of respiratory support

A newborn baby who needs respiratory assistance from birth. Optiflow will reduce the effort required to breathe, until they can maintain breathing independently.

Why is it good for my baby?

Optiflow is easy to apply and gentle on the delicate nose area. It allows for improved facial access.

This will make cares so much easier and less stressful for your baby. Optiflow is very quiet and allows for a calmer environment around your baby. They can sleep easier due to the flexible tubing used and are able to move around their incubator / cot, without getting in a tangle.

You will be able to enjoy cuddles and time with your baby. The tubing used is light and easy to pick up for transfers. Once in place, Optiflow requires minimal adjusting by staff and leads to more settled times and enhanced sleeping opportunities.



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