

# Keeping Your Baby Safe



---

**Disclaimer:** The advice and information contained herein is provided in good faith as a public service. However the accuracy of any statements made is not guaranteed as it is the responsibility of readers to make their own enquiries as to the accuracy, currency and appropriateness of any information or advice provided. Liability for any act or omission occurring in reliance on this document or for any loss, damage or injury occurring as a consequence of such act or omission is expressly disclaimed.

---

**Compiled by:** Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Care Unit  
**Email:** [ogccu@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:ogccu@health.wa.gov.au)  
**Web site:** <http://wchs.health.wa.gov.au>

**Produced by the Women's and Children's Health Service**  
© September 2005  
WCHS 0154

**King Edward Memorial  
Hospital for Women**

374 Bagot Road  
Subiaco WA 6008  
Tel: (08) 9340 2222  
Fax: (08) 9388 1780

**Princess Margaret Hospital  
for Children**

Roberts Road  
Subiaco WA 6008  
Tel: (08) 9340 8222  
Fax: (08) 9340 8111



## Introduction

As a parent, you may have felt anxious about how to keep your baby safe. You do need to be watchful and cautious while you are in hospital and when you go home. The information given here explains ways that you and the hospital staff can keep your baby safe.

Before the birth of your baby you should investigate security procedures at the hospital where you plan to give birth. Procedures such as those listed below should be in place. You also need to be aware of your role in keeping your baby safe.

## While in hospital

- All hospital workers have identification badges with colour photographs. Be aware of what the badge should look like. Be sure the face and picture on the badge are the same even if the person looks and acts like they work there.
- Before your baby leaves the birth room an identification (ID) bracelet that matches the mother's name and number, will be put on the baby. This is replaced by two of the baby's own ID bracelets after hospital registration of birth. They are checked with the original one before applying.

Do not give your baby to anyone who does not have the proper staff identification. You, or a designated family member, are always welcome to accompany your baby to other treatment areas within the hospital.

- You should not take your baby from the ward unless your midwife has been consulted.
- If you are separated from your baby (ie for baby's blood tests), on return your midwife will ask you to read the name and number on your bracelet. She matches this name and number with the baby's bracelet.
- If you leave your room/ward ask a family member to watch your baby.
- When taking your baby out of your room put the baby in the cot and push the cot. Do not carry your baby in your arms outside the room.
- If a bracelet is loose or has come off, please tell your midwife right away.
- A description of your baby, including birth marks and hair colour, will be documented in the baby's medical record by the hospital staff within 24 hours of birth.

- Start your own family photo album as soon as possible so you have photos of your baby.
- When you are in the room with your baby, put the cot on the far side of the room, away from the door when possible. You can stay between people coming into your room and the baby until you identify them.
- Before you leave for home, be clear about who might be coming to your home to give follow-up care. Know what identification they will use. Do not allow anyone into your home who says they are from the hospital without proper identification.
- **Alert staff if you see anyone or anything suspicious!** Do not hesitate to call your midwife right away if you have any questions.

## At home

- Safety experts recommend against putting a birth announcement with address or contact details in the newspaper, putting a sign in the yard or tying balloons to the mailbox. These may bring unwanted attention to you and your baby. Please consider the risks you take when publicising your baby's arrival.
- It is ill advised to allow anyone into your home that you barely know, especially if you met them briefly since you became pregnant or gave birth to your baby.

## Where to find more information

Paul Wyles. "Missing Children: Advice, Information and Preventative Action for Parents, Teachers and Counsellors". Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology 1988 ISBN 0 642 13556 8; ISSN 1031-5330 (Crime Prevention Series).  
<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/crimprev/children/>

United States National Center for Missing Kids website – Resources for Parents  
<http://www.missingkids.com>

"SIDS and kids safe sleeping" pamphlet

Australian Transport Safety Bureau "A simple guide to child restraints – How you can protect your child". Child Restraint Information Line 1800 802 244

Kidsafe, the child accident prevention foundation of Australia, website: <http://www.kidsafewa.com.au>

Poisons Information  
13 11 26