

CONSENT

Giving Permission for Your Baby's Care

When your baby is admitted to the Neonatal Unit (NNU), your permission - known as consent - is a vital part of their care. Consent means agreeing to the care and treatment your baby receives, and it helps ensure that you remain fully involved in decisions about their health and wellbeing.

There are different types of consent depending on the situation, ranging from everyday care to more complex procedures.

Implied

This means your permission is understood through your actions — for example, by agreeing for your baby to be cared for in the unit. It covers routine care, for example, breathing support, monitoring, blood tests, blood transfusion, cannula insertion and giving the medication your baby needs.

Verbal

Verbal consent is when you give your permission or agreement out loud, using spoken words, rather than in writing. It's an explicit way to show that you agree to something. Your decision would be documented in your baby's notes.

Written

This is needed for more serious or complex procedures, such as an operation, immunisations or if your baby is taking part in a research study. A staff member will talk everything through with you and ask you to sign a form if you agree.

Our team will always do their best to explain what's happening and why. We encourage you to ask questions at any time. You are a key part of your baby's care team, and we are here to support you throughout your journey.