Discharge/Transfer

When it is time to be transferred from MS-CHONY

Because our NICU is a regional referral unit, many babies or mothers are transferred from area hospitals to MS-CHONY prior to delivery for specialized medical or surgical care.

Once your infant has shown appropriate recovery and is no longer in need of our specialized services, they are transferred via ambulance with highly experienced neonatal transport team to either their referral hospital or a hospital close to home. At that hospital, recuperation can continue and the routine NICU management of a growing infant or preemie is well managed.

It is important that you as a parent understand that all our infants, not only the ones who were transferred to MS-CHONY, may need to be transferred to hospitals closer to home. By having your baby taken care of closer to home you and your family can spend maximal time with your newborn, feeding and caring for him or her, thus allowing the relationship between you and your baby to flourish.

Not only does this policy support our family centered care philosophy, but it also insures that beds will be available for future critically ill infants whose survival requires the medical and or surgical expertise available at MS-CHONY.

Care after Discharge

The big day is rapidly approaching. This is the day you have been waiting for since the moment your baby was born. You are excited and terrified, but that is OK. The transition to home is a tough one, but one that is vital to your family's development and for the continued growth and development of your little one. Don't be afraid to ask questions, and don't be afraid to ask them again if you're still not sure. All of us here at MS-CHONY want this step to be as smooth a process as possible for you and your family.
There is a lot to talk about when it comes time to going home, but here are a few things to keep in mind:

**General Pediatric Care**

All infants and children need a general pediatrician who will follow them and insure that all health needs are being addressed. NICU graduates are no exception. A good source for locating pediatricians close to where you live are recommendations from your own friends and local family members. Your own Obstetrician’s office and the NICU social workers are also very good sources for pediatricians in your area.

MS-CHONY has a number of General Pediatric Clinics in the area around the Hospital which are open to all. This may be an ideal option for those who live in close proximity to the hospital.

We recommend that you contact your baby’s future pediatrician prior to discharge from the NICU. This will allow them to become more familiar with your child and family prior to the first visit. In addition, when you leave the NICU you will be given a complete discharge summary of your baby’s hospital course to be given to your pediatrician.

Ideally, all infants should have their first pediatrician visit within 3-5 days of discharge from the NICU.

**Neonatal Follow-up Program**

The Neonatal Follow-Up Program was founded in 1971 by Drs. John and Yvonne Driscoll. The Program’s mission is to provide consultative developmental services for at risk NICU graduates of the Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian and its network hospitals. We offer specialized testing to evaluate your child’s development and, when necessary, suggest interventions to address any identified delays. Early detection and close monitoring of your child’s developmental progress will enable us to maximize your child’s overall potential.

The Neonatal follow-up program is located at MS-CHONY and is comprised of Neonatologists, a Developmental Pediatrician, a Developmental Psychologist and a program coordinator.
Our Neonatal follow-up program Coordinator will meet with you 1-2 weeks before your baby goes home in order to introduce you to the program and to schedule your baby’s first appointment.

The neonatal Follow-up program can be reached at 212-305-6350.

**Other specialty Appointments**

You may find that depending on your child’s needs you may have follow-up with other specialized medical or surgical teams after your child leaves the NICU. These may include one or more of the following: Ophthalmology (eye doctor), pediatric surgery, pediatric cardiology, neurology, gastroenterology, feeding/nutrition, genetics, and physical/occupational/feeding therapy. Your doctors will discuss with you what specialty follow-up your baby will need as this will be unique for each baby.

**Visiting Nurse Services (VNS)**

Depending on where home is, most of our infants can receive one or two home visits by the visiting nurse service in their respective regions. This visit is timed for the few days after discharge from the hospital and is intended to ease the transition from hospital to home.

The NICU social workers will assist you in having the VNS visit scheduled.