



## Infant Security: A Parent's Guide

A new family has many things on their mind; the excitement of the birth, learning to care for their newborn and thoughts about how to keep their baby safe.

Throughout your stay at Almonte General Hospital, the team will work to keep your baby safe. It is important for families to learn about security procedures and what can be done to prevent infant abduction.

### **How will my baby and family be protected?**

The Almonte General Hospital has specific policies and procedures to ensure safety of your baby and you. At birth, 2 identification bracelets will be placed on your baby. Mother will also receive a bracelet with same number and information printed on it to be worn on the right arm. One of the bracelets placed on your baby will be equipped with an alarm that will notify security if your baby is out of the permitted zone. If you and your baby are separated, the bracelets should be checked when you are reunited. We want you to feel safe at all times.

### **Who is allowed to care for my baby?**

Only certain staff members are allowed to care for your baby.

You have the right to and should ask to see the hospital photo identification badge of your health care providers. Always check the photo ID before allowing anyone to provide care for your baby. Your nurse will introduce herself to you when you first meet, so that you know her name.

Anytime your baby must leave you for tests or procedures, you or your support person/partner may accompany the baby.

You are permitted to walk around on the unit with your baby but we ask that you not leave the unit. Please do not be offended if you are asked to show your ID bracelets; this is to protect you and your baby.

You should never leave your baby unsupervised. Be curious with people entering your room or those inquiring about your baby, even if they wear hospital uniforms. Notify hospital staff immediately if you are concerned.

### **What to do once home with my baby?**

Start an information file on your baby. It should include a colour photo (head and shoulders), footprints as well as completed written description of your baby. Be sure to note birthmarks and visible marks such as moles, etc.

Update these files every three months for the first two years.

For more information see [www.ontario.childfind.ca](http://www.ontario.childfind.ca)

Thank you to the Ottawa Hospital