



Care of the Late Preterm Infant

The late preterm baby is born before 37 weeks. These babies could have a higher risk of health problems and readmission to the hospital so they often need specialized care, including:



Skin to Skin: When you hold your baby, place their chest on your chest. Make sure their nose and mouth are always visible. This helps your baby in many ways!



Temperature: Some late preterm babies can have trouble staying warm. Make sure the room is between 72 ° and 78 ° F.



Infection Prevention & Treatment: Protect your baby from potential infections by limiting visitors, making sure everyone washes their hands before holding the baby, breastfeeding, and following your provider's guidelines on vaccines.



Feeding: Work with your healthcare team to make sure your baby is sucking, swallowing and breathing properly when feeding.



Jaundice: If you notice your baby has a yellow coloring in their skin or eyes, that could be jaundice. Talk to your healthcare team if you notice this to determine the best plan of care.



Discharge Readiness: As a caregiver, it's important you understand the unique needs of your late preterm infant. Ask your healthcare team questions prior to discharge so you feel ready for the transition to home!



Schedule your baby's follow up appointment before leaving the hospital!



Remember, your healthcare team is here to answer any questions you have about caring for your late preterm infant!