The Special Care Baby Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital cares for babies with a number of medical conditions. Some babies on the unit are born prematurely, others are born with breathing difficulties or feeding problems and some have abnormalities at birth. Whatever the problem, parents, friends and family can be assured that the Special Care staff have met it before, have the experience to deal with it and will fully explain what is happening.

The Special Care Baby Unit admits approximately 250 babies each year. It has 16 cots, which are split into three areas of Intensive Care, High Dependency and Special Care. Each area is equipped and heated differently in accordance with the needs of its babies. The Unit cares for babies with medical problems. Those who require surgery are transferred to a regional unit, which is usually St Mary's Hospital in Manchester, or for babies with heart conditions, Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool. We have extended our service from July 2005, to visiting babies and their families at home after discharge with our Neonatal Outreach Service.

Where is the SBCU?
The Special Care Baby Unit is part of the Trust's Division of Women and Children’s Services and is situated on the first floor of the Women's Unit. The delivery suite and postnatal wards are close by enabling the Special Care staff to work closely with the Midwifery staff to offer the most comprehensive and professional care possible for the babies and mothers.

Visiting the SBCU
Premature and sick babies are prone to infection so any visitors other than parents need to be kept to a minimum. However, the unit does have open visiting and parents can visit as often as they wish. Visitors to the unit can only gain access if accompanied by a known parent or guardian of the baby. The doors are kept locked at all times and CCTV monitors all entrances and exits. Visiting is open for parents but a parent must accompany all other visitors.

Facilities for Parents
The admission of a baby to the Special Care Baby Unit can place a lot of stress upon its parents and there has recently been some upgrading to the unit in order to make the facility as comfortable as possible for parents and guardians. The unit has a waiting room with a small children's play area, a comfortable purpose-designed double bedroom, a quiet room for relaxation or counseling and it can also be transformed into a second double bedroom for parents, showering facilities, and a breast feeding room and a parent kitchen are also available.

CONTACTS :  All 01253 300000 and ask for bleep number or direct to SCBU on 01253 303636

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