



Guidelines for Use of Mobile Devices in the Neonatal Unit

Parent/Caregiver/Whānau Information – Neonatal Services

Our NICU policy to date has been to discourage mobile device use (ie. mobile phones, tablets, iPads) and we seek to update this to address the potential for privacy breaches, nuisance value and distraction from caring for your baby, while recognising the need to be contactable by others.

While in the Neonatal Unit

- Ensure that any transmitting device is set to silent or vibrate at all times.
- Ensure your device is cleaned regularly before and after use as they can be a source of bugs.
 - Wipes provided in the Neonatal Unit are suitable and are available in the nursery.
- Make and receive phone calls outside of the clinical area/nursery, or move outside the unit for in-depth discussions.
- We recommend that your device is put away while feeding so that you are able to completely engage with your baby during this important nurturing time.
- Cuddles and skin-to-skin time should be time devoted to your baby and so we encourage no cell phone use during this time. Reading kindles or e-books on your tablet is acceptable.
- Please feel free to take photos of your baby only. Please respect the privacy of other families and staff.
- Devices should be fully charged and cannot be charged in the nursery.
- Please put your phone away during ward rounds and during meetings with staff.
- Please note that permission must be sought for video or voice recording involving staff.

If circumstances exist that you need to Skype/Facetime a parent or close family member who cannot be there due to ill health or distance please make the nurse aware, so that privacy can be assured. This is for you as well as other babies and their families in the nursery. Please use headphones and volume control during these calls to minimise the impact of noise on the babies.