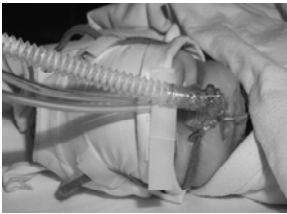


Nasal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (nCPAP)

Parent / Caregiver Information



What is nCPAP?

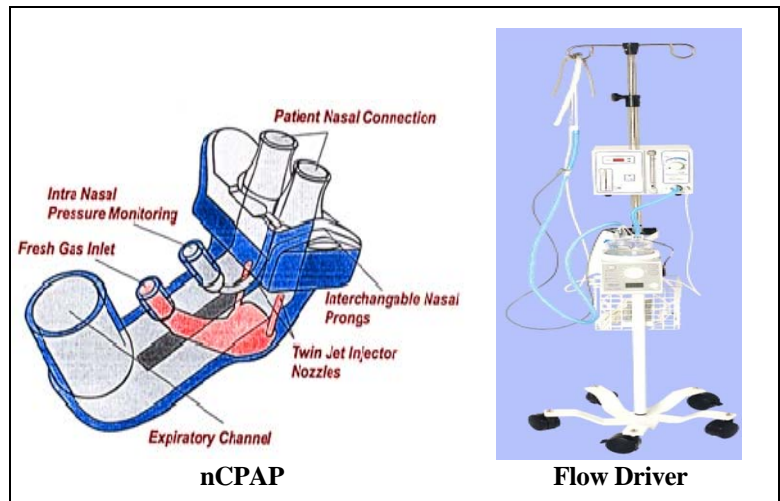
nCPAP is given via a machine called a flow driver. It makes it easier for your baby to breathe by delivering oxygen into the lungs. It also keeps the lungs expanded when your baby breathes out. This reduces the work required for your baby to breathe and allows tired muscles to share the effort of breathing.

Who requires nCPAP?

Babies with:

- Bronchiolitis
- Apnoea
- Pneumonia
- Severe croup
- Acute heart failure

and a number of other reasons.



What are the side effects of nCPAP?

Oxygen under pressure can deliver air into your baby's tummy, making it expand, which may interfere with your baby's breathing. As a way of stopping this we insert a feeding tube into your baby's tummy via their mouth. This allows us to both let air out of your baby's tummy and to feed your baby.

nCPAP and the medication used to help your baby rest can cause the eyes to become puffy. This will settle once the nCPAP and medication are stopped.

What happens while my baby is on nCPAP?

- Your baby will be nursed in the Paediatric High Dependency Unit.
- Your baby will also be attached to equipment which monitors the heart rate, breathing and amount of oxygen in the blood.
- Medication may be given to help your baby rest.
- Your baby will get all the fluid they need either via a feeding tube or a tube placed in a vein (intravenously).
- If you are breastfeeding we will help you express your breast milk which will be given through the feeding tube.
- You are welcome to visit with people in our family area however please limit visitors in your baby's room as it is important that your baby rests as much as possible.
- Hand washing is very important as a method of both protecting your baby and other babies in the unit / ward from infection. Please follow the staff's instructions regarding hand washing.