Identification of neonates: antenatal

Identification and wristbands

Flowchart

Antenatal admission to hospital

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Is the mother booked to deliver at this hospital?

→ **YES** →
- Check mother's ID against her records and produce wrisband
- Check and apply wristband

→ **NO** →
- Take mother's details
- Compile a set of medical records
- Produce, check and apply wristband

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Baby/babies born

→ **Singleton** →
As soon as possible and before leaving the delivery suite produce TWO wristbands for each baby

→ **Multiple Birth** →
Midwife to ensure adequate number of umbilical cord clamps/ligatures to enable identification of babies at delivery:
- One cord clamp/ligature for Twin I or Triplet I
- Two cord clamps/ligatures for Twin II or Triplet II
- Three cord clamps/ligatures for Triplet III etc.

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As soon as possible and before leaving the delivery suite produce TWO wristbands for each baby

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Check wristband(s) before applying to the baby's/babies' ankles. (Extra cord clamps, if applied, can then be removed).
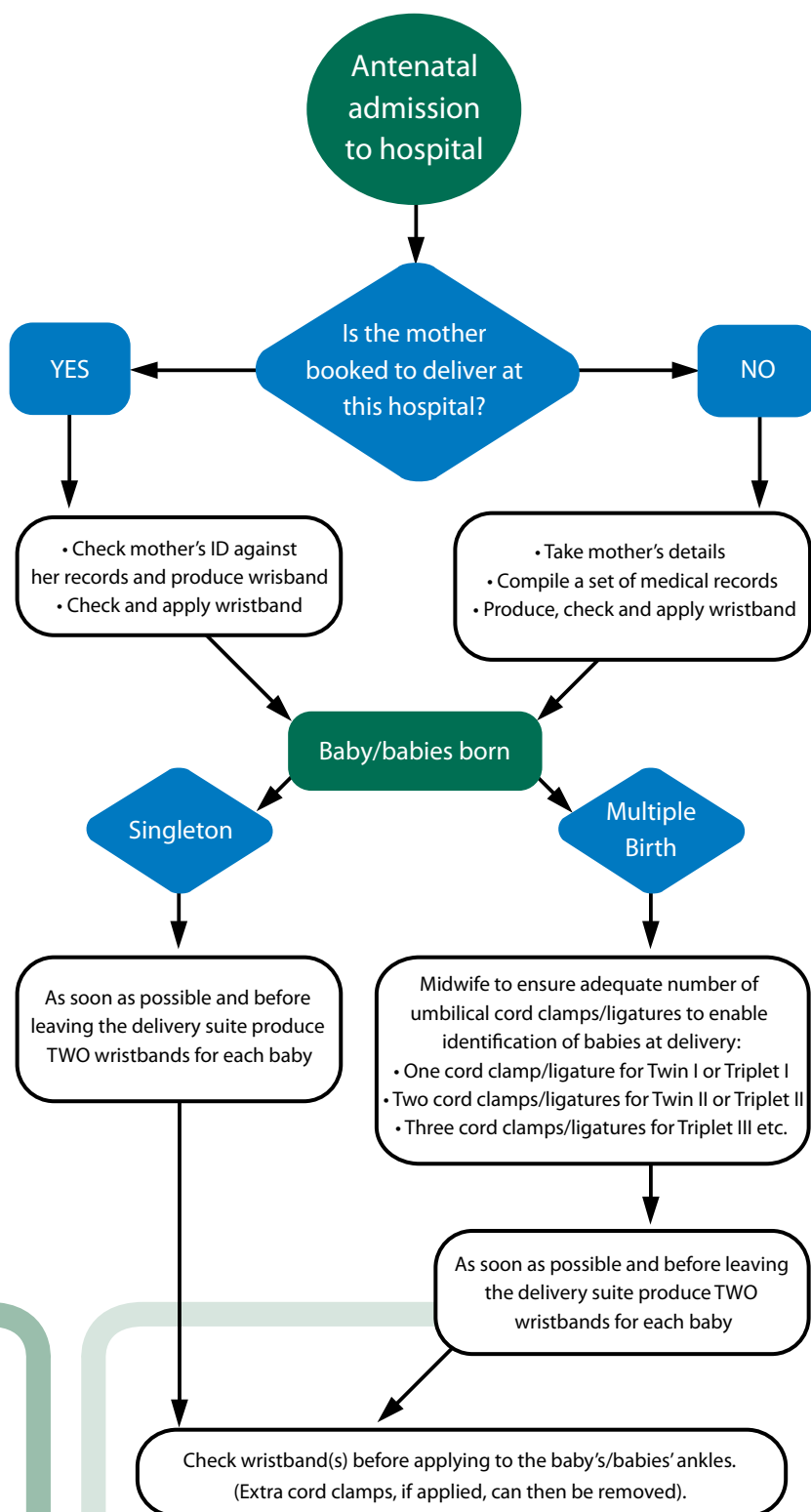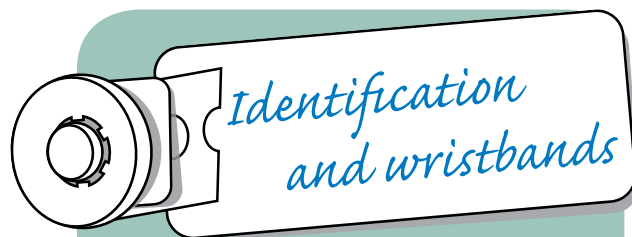
Identification of newborns

The NPSA uses the term 'wristband' which covers both wristbands and any other form of identity band.

If a wristband is produced by a non-regulated person (i.e. Maternity Care Assistant), it must be counter-checked by a registered professional.

Wristband information: mother
- LAST NAME, first name
- Date of birth
- NHS Number (or local hospital number until this is available)
- Please refer to NPSA *Safer Practice Notice 24: Standardising wristbands improves patient safety* (**www.npsa.nhs.uk/nrls/alerts-and-directives/notices/wristbands**)

Wristband information: baby
- TWIN/TRIPLET I/II/III if applicable
- Mother's LAST NAME, baby boy/girl
- Date of birth
- Time of birth
- Baby's NHS Number (or local hospital number until this is available).

For babies needing urgent transfer to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) or specialist unit post delivery
- Before the baby is removed from the delivery suite, some form of reliable identification must be applied - wherever possible this should be as outlined opposite.
- However, when babies are very premature some wristbands may cause damage to their skin and an alternative method of identification may be more appropriate and practical as an interim measure.
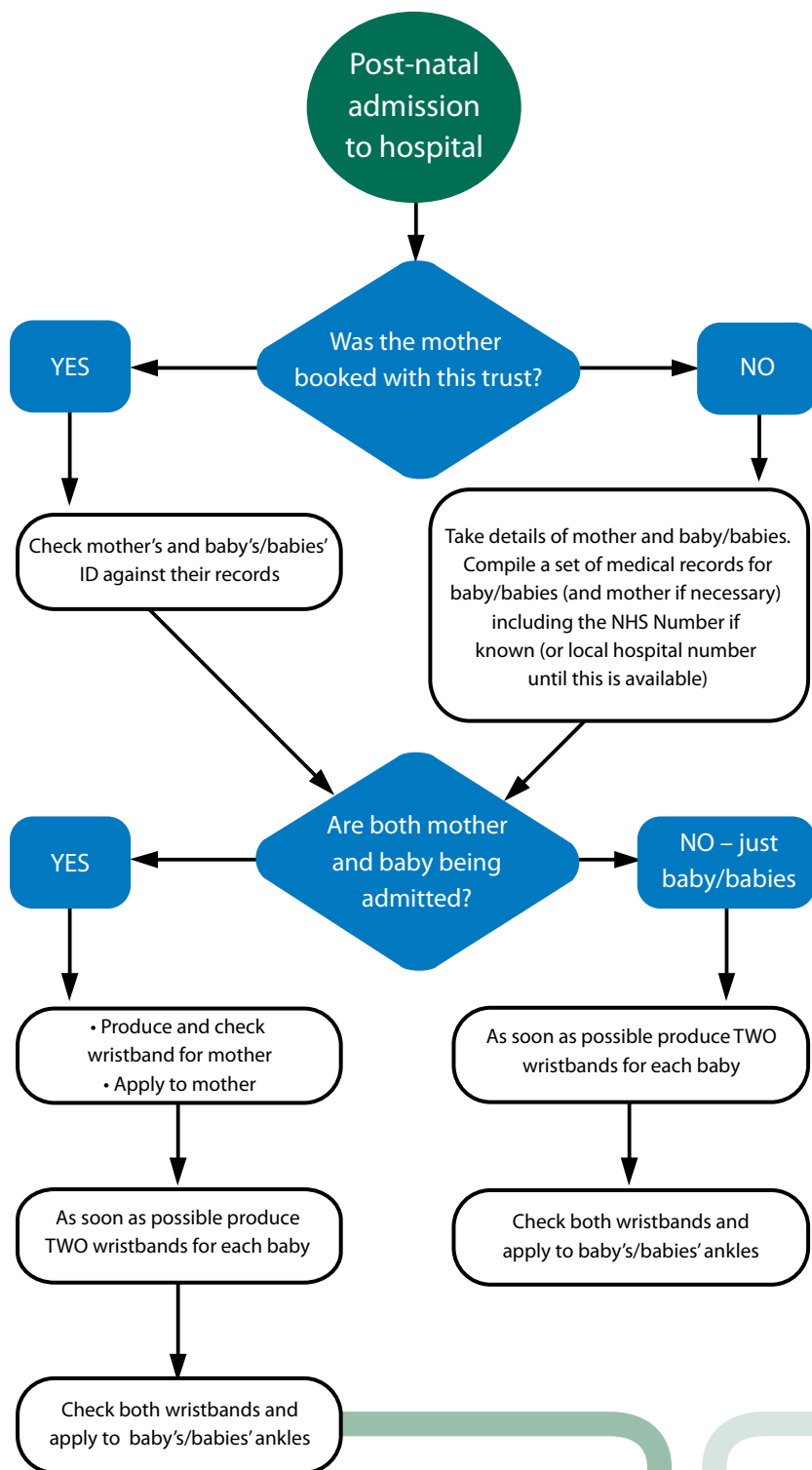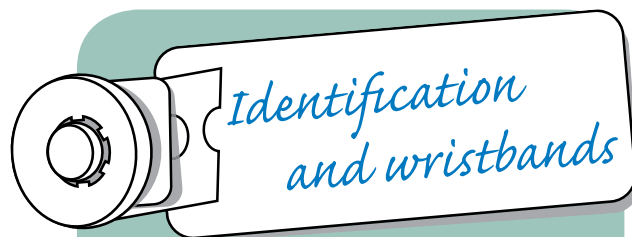
Checking wristbands
- Check all wristbands with the mother and her birth partner (or member of staff where necessary) before applying.
- The wristbands must be checked every day by a member of staff during the daily examination.

If a wristband becomes detached from the baby:
- Produce and apply a new wristband.
- If *both* wristbands are lost:
  - o inform the midwife in charge of the shift;
  - o check every other baby's wristbands on the ward before wristbands are replaced;
  - o complete an incident form.
- If two or more babies do not have wristbands, follow local policies for identification.

Identification of neonates: post-natal

Identification and wristbands

Flowchart

Post-natal admission to hospital

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Was the mother booked with this trust?

YES ← → **NO**

YES: Check mother's and baby's/babies' ID against their records

NO: Take details of mother and baby/babies. Compile a set of medical records for baby/babies (and mother if necessary) including the NHS Number if known (or local hospital number until this is available)

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Are both mother and baby being admitted?

YES ← → **NO – just baby/babies**

YES:
- Produce and check wristband for mother
- Apply to mother

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As soon as possible produce TWO wristbands for each baby

↓

Check both wristbands and apply to baby's/babies' ankles

NO – just baby/babies:

As soon as possible produce TWO wristbands for each baby

↓

Check both wristbands and apply to baby's/babies' ankles

Identification of newborns

The NPSA uses the term 'wristband' which covers both wristbands and any other form of identity band.

If a wristband is produced by a non-regulated person (i.e. Maternity Care Assistant), it must be counter-checked by a registered professional.

Wristband information: mother
- LAST NAME, first name
- Date of birth
- NHS Number (or local hospital number until this is available)
- Please refer to NPSA *Safer Practice Notice 24: Standardising wristbands improves patient safety* (**www.npsa.nhs.uk/nrls/alerts-and -directives/notices/wristbands**)

Wristband information: baby
- TWIN/TRIPLET I/II/III if applicable
- Mother's LAST NAME, baby boy/girl
- Date of birth
- Time of birth
- Baby's NHS Number (or local hospital number until this is available).

Checking wristbands
- Check all wristbands with the mother and her birth partner (or member of staff where necessary) before being applied.
- The wristbands must be checked every day by a member of staff during the daily examination

If a wristband becomes detached from the baby:
- Produce and apply a new wristband.
- If *both* wristbands are lost:
  - inform the midwife in charge of the shift;
  - check every other baby's wristbands on the ward before wristbands are replaced;
  - complete an incident form.
- If two or more babies do not have wristbands, follow local policies for identification.