Questions You May Have About Developmental TIPS...

What is Developmental TIPS?
Developmental TIPS is a program that provides specialized developmental follow-up for babies who have been in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

The Developmental TIPS program has two main goals:

- The first goal is to provide a standard system of developmental follow-up for all infants who have had an NICU experience in Nebraska.
- The second goal is to gather information about how babies who have been in the NICU grow and develop, so we can learn how to better meet their unique needs in the future.

Why does my baby need to participate?
Your baby was admitted to the NICU for several days or more. This means your baby’s condition was serious enough at birth that health and development should now be monitored more closely than that of most infants.

Concerns addressed early can often be resolved much more satisfactorily than those which remain unresolved until later. Sometimes, it can be reassuring just to hear that your baby is doing fine.

How will my baby’s progress be followed?
Developmental TIPS offers three different options for follow-up. The type of follow-up which is recommended for your baby will be discussed with you around the time of his discharge from the NICU.

1. Follow-up by Questionnaire
   Babies who have had a fairly smooth NICU experience will be followed by a developmental questionnaire. This questionnaire will be sent to your home around four key periods of development: six months, sixteen months, two years and three years of age. This will be based on corrected age for premature babies. Families will be asked to complete and return the survey to us for evaluation.

2. Follow-up by Developmental Screening
   Those babies whose hospital course was a bit more complicated will be asked to come to a clinic during the same key periods for developmental screening by a team of specialists.

3. Follow-up by Comprehensive Assessment
   Sometimes, your health care team will recommend that your baby be evaluated for services to help promote his development through the Early Development Network. If your child qualifies for services, Developmental TIPS will still contact you to obtain follow-up information, or to arrange to have a developmental assessment completed.

If my baby needs to be seen in a clinic, where will it be held?
Clinic sites will be available in four cities across the state of Nebraska:
- Kearney (one clinic location)
- Lincoln (one clinic location)
- Omaha (two clinic locations)
- Scottsbluff (one clinic location)
- Norfolk (one clinic location)

This means that even if your baby was transferred to an NICU in Lincoln or Omaha, follow-up can take place in Kearney or Scottsbluff, if one of these locations is more convenient for you.

You can get more information on Developmental TIPS by calling
1-800-656-3937 (extension 9-7368)
or
1-402-559-7368

Is there a cost for my baby’s clinic visit?
At this time, there is no direct cost to families for any of the follow-up activities. The cost has been shared by:
- The Nebraska Department of Education
- The Nebraska Health and Human Services System
- Alegent Health/Bergan Mercy Medical Center
- Children’s Hospital
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- Regional West Medical Center
- The Nebraska Medical Center / University Hospital
- Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center
- Creighton University Medical Center
- Munroe-Meyer Institute

What do I need to do to participate?
Once you have received all the information you need about this program, you will be asked to sign two forms.

1. The Informed Consent allows us to gather information about your baby. It also is a promise that any information we collect will be confidential, so no one can connect it to your child.

2. The Release of Information allows us to exchange information with your baby’s primary physician and make any referrals that you and the developmental team agree are necessary.

Do I need this program if I already have a doctor for my baby?
The answer is definitely YES! Developmental TIPS does not take the place of seeing your regular doctor. But because of your baby’s unique NICU experience, we feel having a specialized team to help monitor your baby’s development is an essential part of follow-up care.
If you have any questions about Developmental TIPS, you may contact your NICU or the Developmental TIPS coordinating staff at:

1-800-656-3937 (extension 9-7368)

or

1-402-559-7368