



Home Medical Equipment: Pulse Oximeter (Pulse Ox, Oxygen Saturation Monitor)

The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) team celebrates with you as your baby goes home! After graduation from the NICU, your baby will need special home medical equipment (also called durable medical equipment) to help keep him or her well.

Why does my baby need this equipment?

- Your baby needs a pulse oximeter to monitor the amount of oxygen in his or her blood (oxygen saturation).
- A small, lighted probe attached to your baby's foot or hand will measure the amount of oxygen in his or her blood.
- You will hear an alarm if the amount of oxygen in your baby's blood becomes too low.

Vendor Information

A company, also called a vendor, will bring the equipment to your home and teach you how to use and manage any problems with the equipment that may arise.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Other Emergency Numbers: _____

Important Things to Remember

- Always use safe sleep practices. (Put your baby on his or her back to sleep in crib and keep him or her alone in the crib on a firm mattress with his or her face uncovered; do not overdress your baby for sleep, and keep toys and stuffed animals out of the crib.)
- Always use the pulse oximeter when your baby is asleep, takes a nap, while he or she is riding in the car, or when you are busy. Don't leave the monitor at home.
- False alarms may sound if your baby is moving or the lighted probe becomes loose. Make sure the monitor is hooked up the right way to decrease false alarms.
- Always check on your baby when you hear the pulse oximeter alarm. If needed, tap your baby's foot or rub your baby's chest to help remind your baby to breathe or help raise the heartbeat. Check to make sure their nasal cannula oxygen is still in their nose if the alarm goes off. If your baby is not breathing, shout for help, start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and call emergency medical services (EMS) or 911 right away.
- Call your EMS, telephone, and electric companies if your baby also uses oxygen. This is important so that if there is a power outage or emergency, you will be on a priority list for help.
- Do **not** stop using the pulse oximeter until your baby's provider tells you it is safe to do so.
- You may be nervous at first, but with practice, you will become more comfortable using the equipment. It's always OK to ask for help! Make sure you ask your baby's healthcare provider who you can call for help, questions, and concerns.

The above information is to help you better understand your baby's care. Always follow the instructions given by your baby's health-care provider and ask questions if you have concerns about your baby.

Online Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.aap.org

Kids Health
www.kidshealth.org