



Newborn Identification and Security — Protocol

Two bands at birth, matched to the mother, checked at every handover and every return — and the rule for a missing band

At birth — before mother and baby are separated

1. Two bands applied in the delivery room within 5 minutes, by the person who attended the birth, in the mother's sight: one wrist, one ankle.
2. Each band: mother's full name · baby's sex · date and time of birth · baby's unique number · (twins: A/B and birth order).
3. Mother's band has the same unique number. The attendant reads both aloud to the mother.
4. Recorded in the birth register with the band number.

Every time

When	Check
Baby leaves the mother (weighing, procedure, neonatal unit)	Bands read aloud against the mother's band by the person taking the baby; mother told where and why
Baby returns to the mother	Mother's band and baby's bands compared by the person returning the baby and by the mother
Every feed, medicine, vaccine, blood sample, procedure	Two identifiers from the band; never "the baby in cot 4"
Every shift handover	Receiving nurse checks every baby's bands against the register
Before discharge	Bands checked against the register and the mother; bands removed only after the check, at home

Missing, loose or illegible band: stop. No feed, medicine or transfer until re-banded from the register (never from memory), with the mother present, by two staff. Record as an incident. Two babies with a mismatch or a doubt: both stay where they are, the senior midwife is called, identity re-established from the register, footprints and the mothers' accounts; incident report; both families told.

Security

- Postnatal ward and neonatal unit entrance controlled; visitors identified; staff wear photo ID.
- Babies are moved only in cots by identified staff, never carried through corridors by visitors.
- Mothers are told: "Only staff wearing this ID will take your baby, and they will tell you why." Any doubt: call the desk.
- An abduction response drill once a year: lock-down, description, police.

ASF standards: Universal Floor — newborn identification (means of verification: protocol, band audit); Hospital Standard 4