

Some of the equipment surrounding your baby and some of the words that you hear may confuse or frighten you.

The brief explanations listed on this page are intended to help you, but please ask for more information if there is anything that you don't understand

## A

### **Anemia**

Not enough red blood cells or haemoglobin in the blood.

### **Apnoea**

A momentary stopping of breathing.

### **Apnoea Monitor**

A small box which sits on top of the incubator or at the head of the cot and will sound an alarm if your baby forgets to breath.

## B

### **Bilirubin**

A breakdown product of blood which can cause jaundice.

### **Blood Gas Test**

Sometimes referred to as Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) or Capillary Acid Base (CAB). A small amount of blood is tested to determine the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels. The result will allow the doctor to adjust the ventilator settings and/or oxygen level.

### **Bradycardia (Brady)**

A slowing of the heart rate below 100, causing the monitor to alarm.

## C

### **Cardio-respiratory Monitor**

Measures your baby's heart and breathing rate via three electrodes. Sometimes you will hear the alarms ring – this is a warning sign and does not necessarily mean that your baby's condition has suddenly deteriorated.

### **Chest Tube**

This is passed through the chest wall between the ribs and connected to a drainage bottle and suction to treat a pneumothorax (see under 'p' definitions in this section).

### **Chronic Lung Disease (sometimes referred to as Broncho-Pulmonary Dysplasia)**

A lung problem that commonly occurs in babies who have been ventilated. The lungs usually recover in time.

## D

### **Dextrostix**

A measurement of blood sugar obtained from a small amount of blood taken by pricking the heel.

# E

## **Electrode**

A circular, adhesive disc which is connected to a cardio-respiratory monitor and is placed on the baby's chest to measure heart and breathing rate.

## **Endo-tracheal Tube**

A plastic tube that is passed through the nose or mouth into the trachea (windpipe) and connected to a ventilator.

# G

## **Gavage Feeding**

Method of feeding breast milk or formula through a small tube passed through the baby's mouth or nose and into the stomach.

# H

## **Haemoglobin (Hb)**

The iron-containing part of the red cells which carry oxygen from the lungs throughout the body.

## **Head Box**

A small Perspex box is placed over the baby's head if additional oxygen is required.

## **HMD (Hyaline Membrane Disease)**

A lung disorder often occurring in premature babies in which the tiny air sacs of the lungs may collapse.

## **Hypoglycaemia**

Low blood sugar

# I

## **Incubator or Isolette**

A large heated Perspex box with cupboards underneath. Your baby may need to be in an incubator because he is small and needs oxygen to make breathing easier.

## **Intravenous Infusion (drip)**

A sterile fluid is given through a tube flowing at a regular rate into a vein in the arm, leg or umbilical cord. This will be held in place with sticking plaster and a splint.

## **IPPV (Intermittent Positive Pressure Ventilation)**

Using an endo-tracheal tube attached to a ventilator, the air pressure in the lungs is repeatedly increased, to inflate the lungs, and then released, allowing the lungs to deflate.

## **IVH (Intra-Ventricular Haemorrhage)**

Bleeding into the cavities situated in the center of the brain which are normally filled with a watery fluid. It may be detected by ultrasound.

# J

## **Jaundice**

Yellow colour of skin caused by too much bilirubin in the blood.

# M

## **Meconium**

A dark green substance found in the baby's intestines at birth and passed in the first bowel action.

## **Mucous**

Fluid secreted by the membranes of the nose and trachea (windpipe).

# N

## **NCPAP (Necrotising Enterocolitis)**

A routine test on the blood of all babies to check for metabolic disorders.

## **NEC (Necrotising Enterocolitis)**

Inflammation of the bowel.

## **Neonatal Screening Test**

A routine test on the blood of all babies to check for metabolic disorders.

# O

## **Oedema**

The presence of too much fluid in the tissues, often seen in the eyelids feet and hands.

## **Orogastric Feed**

Feeding tube remains instiu, whereas gavage feeding tubes are intermittantly insterted. ie. Inserted for each feed.

## **Oximeter**

Gives readings for the saturation of oxygen by attaching a clip to your baby's hand or foot. This is normally used on older or bigger babies.

## **Oxygen Analyser**

Measures the amount of oxygen your baby is breathing.

# P

## **PDA (Patent Ductus Arteriosus)**

A large open vessel near the heart.

## **Phototherapy Lights**

These bright lights are placed over your baby's incubator to help the jaundice fade. While your baby is having phototherapy he will be naked except for eye pads to protect his eyes.

## **Pneumothorax**

Occurs when air escapes into the chest cavity from the lungs and flattens them.I

# R

## **Respiration**

Breathing

**ROP (Retinotherapy of Prematurity)**

A condition which may develop in the eyes of some premature babies.

**S****Sepsis**

An infection of the blood or other tissues.

**Sterile**

Free from germs.

**T****TCM or TINA (Trans-cutaneous Monitor)**

Used to ensure that your baby is in the correct amount of oxygen. Recording the results enables adjustments to be made.

**Top-up Transfusion**

Premature babies often become anaemic and may require small blood transfusions at intervals.

**TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition)**

Feeding completely or partly by giving a solution of glucose and other nutrients into a vein. Used when a baby is too sick or too small to have breast milk or formula.

**U****Urinalysis**

A chemical test of the baby's urine.

**V****Ventilator or Respirator**

Some babies need this machine to help them breathe if they are too sick or too small to do so for themselves.

**W****Wet-lung**

Breathing difficulty due to too much fluid in the lungs. It normally improves and is not serious.