

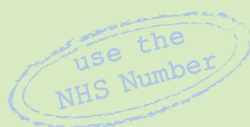
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To request further copies of this leaflet, please visit [www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/resources](http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/resources) or call 08453 700760 quoting reference number 4369. Available in other formats on request.

## Keep your NHS Number safe

This is your baby's NHS number:

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**NHS**  
Connecting for Health

Take this with you whenever your baby sees a doctor or other health care worker

For further information about the programme visit: [www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/nhsnumber](http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/nhsnumber) and for any queries please email the team on: [nhsnumber@nhs.net](mailto:nhsnumber@nhs.net)



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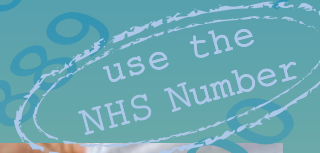
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**NHS**

Connecting for Health

# NHS Number

From birth for life



NHS Number

# This leaflet tells you what the NHS Number is, why it is important to use it whenever your baby receives healthcare and how you find out your baby's NHS Number.

## What is an NHS Number?

Everyone registered with the NHS in England and Wales has their own unique NHS Number. Every baby born in England and Wales is given an NHS Number at birth. This includes babies:

- born in an NHS trust hospital, a non-NHS hospital or at home
- born to overseas visitors
- whose parent(s) are in the armed forces
- born in England or Wales but normally resident in Scotland or Northern Ireland
- who are stillborn
- who are adopted at birth.

## Why should I use the NHS Number?

Babies are seen by a number of different NHS staff, including health visitors, midwives and GPs. If you are able to give NHS staff and health professionals your baby's NHS Number, it helps them find your baby's health record more easily. This ensures they are looking at the correct record and means the care your baby receives will be both more efficient and safer.

## Do I need my baby's NHS Number to receive NHS care?

No, it is not essential to know your baby's NHS Number to receive NHS care, but it is helpful if you are able to give it to NHS staff.

## How can I find out my baby's NHS Number?

There are a number of ways in which you can find out your baby's NHS Number. Usually, your baby will be given an NHS Number whilst they are still in hospital. If your baby is born at home they will receive an NHS Number when the midwife registers the birth.

Your baby's NHS Number is issued as part of the 'statutory notification of birth'. This number is then used on any labels, discharge summaries, records and whenever anything is written about your baby by the NHS.

You will be given your baby's NHS Number and advised to keep it in a safe place. There is a space provided on the reverse side of this leaflet where you can attach the patient label from the hospital with your baby's NHS Number and other details. For a home birth, you can ask your midwife to add the details to the leaflet.

**When you have put your baby's NHS Number on this leaflet, please keep it safely for your reference, together with your baby's red book.**

If you don't know, or have misplaced your baby's NHS Number, you can ask your local Primary Care Trust (PCT) to look it up. To get the telephone number for your PCT visit [www.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectories](http://www.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectories) and under the NHS Authorities and Trusts section, click on 'Find your local Primary Care Trust' – and then enter your postcode. NHS Direct can also tell you the telephone number for your PCT – you can 'phone them on **0845 4647**.

When you telephone your PCT, please ask for the Patient and Practitioners' Service Agency. Registration staff at the Patient and Practitioners' Service Agency will take your baby's name and date of birth and will then provide you with a written record of your baby's NHS Number.

If your baby is already registered with a GP practice, you can contact the GP practice and ask them to look up your baby's NHS Number. If your baby is not registered with a GP practice, it is important to register them as soon as possible so that you have access to healthcare as soon as you need it.

