

NEC after the NICU

Your baby can thrive after NEC. Sometimes, babies do not have any long-term complications when they go home after a NEC diagnosis. Othertimes, babies experience mild to severe life-altering complications after they have been home from the NICU for weeks, months, or even years.

Every baby is unique, and it can be hard to know if your baby will experience long-term complications from NEC. **If possible, continue to provide your baby with your breastmilk or donor milk.**

Your baby may need many follow-up appointments to help them thrive at home. Every appointment helps your baby receive the care they need. You may see many different specialists at these appointments. Write things down, ask questions, and find someone to support you to help you navigate your child's healthcare needs after the NICU.

After a NEC diagnosis, some babies may have difficulty reaching developmental milestones during their first months and years of life. Potential complications from NEC can increase the risk of infections and the need for future hospitalizations.

Potential complications after NEC:

- Gastrointestinal (digestive) problems
- Slow growth
- Cognitive delays
- Bowel surgery



Join the NEC Society
Connects Facebook group to
connect with families
affected by NEC

If you are ever concerned about your baby, always call your healthcare provider. You know your baby best, and you may be the first to recognize when something is wrong.

Learning how to care for your baby at home can be stressful. You may find a sense of community and connection at the NEC Society, a nonprofit organization.

The NEC Society is working tirelessly to advance NEC research for babies like yours. Today, there are many questions about NEC that we cannot answer because we need more science. We are working to change that so all babies can thrive.

You may find it helpful to join the NEC Registry, where you can share your family's experience and help advance NEC research.

You know your baby best. Ask your care team how you can work together to help your baby thrive.



Join the
NEC
Registry

NECsociety.org • theCHNC.org



NECSOCIETY
Building a world without NEC

CHNC
Children's Hospitals Neonatal Consortium