

PIPER collects and shares information about your baby to improve patient care. Please talk to a PIPER team member if you have any questions.

Tell us what you think

Please tell us about your experience with PIPER so we can continue to improve our service. You do not need to give your name.

Thank you for your feedback.

Please scan the QR code below to complete the survey.



If you have any concerns, please contact the PIPER Director on 9345 9030 or email piper.admin@rch.org.au

Paediatric Infant Perinatal Emergency Retrieval (PIPER)

Telephone 1300 659 803 (option 4)

Web: www.rch.org.au/piper

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Paediatric Infant Perinatal Emergency Retrieval

PIPER

Return Transport Service

Moving babies closer to home

Information for parents

PIPER (Paediatric Infant Perinatal Emergency Retrieval) helps by moving babies to a hospital closer to home.

When your baby is bigger and stronger and no longer in need of specialised care, we will move your baby to a hospital nursery closer to your home.

As the time to move your baby approaches, the medical staff will talk to you about when, where, and how your baby will be transferred.

Your baby will be cared for by the PIPER Return Transport Service team and will be safely secured in the warmed transport incubator. A small volume of expressed breast milk can also be transported if needed.



Babies are transported either by road, in a purpose-built PIPER ambulance or by air using Air Ambulance Victoria or The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). The mode of transport will depend on the distance to be travelled.



Your baby will be accompanied by an experienced Neonatal Nurse and Patient Transport Officer.

During the trip, your baby's heart rate and breathing are constantly monitored and, if needed, oxygen and intravenous fluids can be administered during transport.

You may wish to accompany your baby; however, it is not always possible due to limited seating in both the road and air ambulances. Luggage storage is limited.

Occasionally, a baby will need oxygen for a short time after the journey. Some hospitals also like to observe the baby in an incubator for the first 24 hours.

There is no charge for transfers from public hospitals. Fees may apply for transfers from private hospitals.

