



Ventilators and breathing machines

If a baby is born prematurely or sick, they may need some help to breathe. Here are some of the types of breathing support your baby might require. Not all babies will need all types of breathing support and some might not need any.



Ventilator – A Ventilator provides intensive breathing support for your baby. It helps support the lungs until your baby can breathe for themselves.

Nitric Oxide – This is normally made in the body to relax blood vessels. It enables blood to flow to all parts of the body. When the blood vessels to the lungs stay narrow, nitric oxide can be added in the air and oxygen given to your baby. This helps them to relax and allow blood flow to the lungs.

High Frequency Oscillation – A type of ventilator used to blow small amounts of air with or without added oxygen into the lungs very quickly. Your baby's chest will look like it is vibrating.

BIPAP (Biphasic Positive Airway Pressure) – A form of Non-invasive ventilation like CPAP. It provides oxygen and pressure to help stop the lungs from collapsing. Your baby will wear a special mask and hat when needing this support.





CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) – Provides pressure to help keep the lungs inflated and be used with or without oxygen. Your baby will wear a special mask or prongs and hat when needing this support.

High Flow – A form of breathing support. It is given to your baby through nasal prongs and gives warm, humidified pressurised oxygen/air. Vapotherm is one of the systems used to deliver High Flow.

Low Flow – Oxygen given to your baby through nasal prongs. Your baby may require this when they are able to breathe by themselves, but their lungs may need some time to grow and develop.

This section is for you to write any questions you might have about your baby's breathing support.



