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Bulletin Number 4343	Date September 2, 1999	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health Processing Office <i>(address below)</i>
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, and Laboratories		

Subject Hospital Stay and Home Visit

As part of the government's ongoing plan to invest in nursing services and to improve access to quality nursing care for newborn children and their mothers, funding for a post-delivery hospital stay and follow-up home visit is being provided to all Ontario hospitals and to the existing Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program.

The Ministry is providing funding to hospitals to allow all new mothers the option of staying in hospital for up to 60 hours after a normal birth for assessment, support and follow-up purposes. Women with difficult births or with complications may require longer stays for clinical reasons, others may choose to leave earlier. This program gives women some flexibility should they feel the need for remaining under hospital care for a few additional hours.

Following discharge, the Ministry will also provide funding to the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program for all new mothers to receive a telephone call within 48 hours of leaving the hospital with the offer of an in-home follow-up home visit. Public health nurses will provide these community-based services. These enhanced postpartum services will be collaboratively planned between the local area hospital and the Public Health Unit. For further information about these postpartum services, please contact your local Public Health Unit.

This new component is an addition to the existing Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program. This enhancement will promote the overall vision "to improve the well being and long term prospects of children". HBHC is a joint Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Ministry of Community and Social Services program and is delivered throughout the 37 health units province wide. HBHC currently provides for universal screening of newborns and offers information and support and services to families with children from the prenatal stage until age 6. Prenatal and early identification strategies are currently under development. For those families needing additional supports (high risk) the program provides home visiting by public health nurses and lay-home visitors. Service coordination is designated for each high risk family.

Office locations

Barrie 30 Poyntz St. L4M 3P2	Hamilton 119 King St. W P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A L8N 4C8	Kenora 220-808 Robertson St. P9N 1X9	Kingston 1055 Princess St. P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	Kitchener Canada Life Square Main Floor 235 King St. E., N2G 4N5
London 217 York St., 5th FloorP. O. Box 5700 Terminal A N6A 1B7	Mississauga 201 City Centre Dr. P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A L5A 3M1	North Bay 101-447 McKeown St. P1B 9S9	Oshawa Exec. Tower, Oshawa Centre. 419 King St. W. P.O. Box 635 L1H 8L4	Ottawa Fuller Building 75 Albert Street K1P 5Y9
Owen Sound 981 2nd Avenue E. N4K 2H5	Peterborough 550 Lansdowne St. W. K9J 8J8	St. Catharines 59 Church St 3rd Floor L2R 3C3	Sarnia 452 Christina St. N. N7T 5W4	Sault Ste. Marie Roberta Bondar Place 70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100 P6A 6V4
Sudbury 199 Larch St., Suite 801 P3E 5R1	Thunder Bay 435 James St. S. , Suite 113 P7E 6T1	Timmins 38 Pine St. N., Ste. 110 P4N 6K6	Toronto 2195 Yonge St. P.O Box 1700 Stn. A M5W 1G9	Windsor 1427 Ouellette Ave. N8X 1K1
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