South Eastman Health/Santé Sud-Est Inc.

	No: MC-N004
Approved By: Facility Managers	**Source: Regional Client Care Manual** **Category: Maternal Child**
New/Replaces: **Date Approved:** May 27, 2003 **Reviewed:** **Revised:**	**Subject: NEWBORN SECURITY**

POLICY:

To provide security against the unauthorised removal of a newborn from the hospital.

PRINCIPLE:

Security of the newborn is a legal responsibility of the hospital.

PROCEDURE:

1. Two identification bands will be placed snugly on the new-born; on the wrist and ankle of the newborn. Bands with identical numbers will be placed on the wrist of mother and mother's support person.

2. Identification bands will be placed on newborn, mother and support person when all are present at time of birth. If support person is absent at the time of birth, apply at a later time, in the presence of the mother.

3. Newborns will only be released to the mother or support person with matching identaband numbers.

4. Newborns will be removed from mother's care only by staff wearing identification.

5. The nurse will give newborn to mother/support person only after positive identification.

6. Newborns in the nursery are to be observed by a nurse or delegate when possible.

7. Every attempt should be made not to leave newborns unattended.

8. Instruct mother and support person regarding visiting policies, authorised staff, identification of newborn and to make attempts to ensure newborn is not left unattended.

9. Unusual or suspicious behaviour of visitors or patients should be reported.

NOTE WELL:

1. **If newborn is noticed to be missing page "Code Pink".**
2. **A search of the immediate area will be carried out by the staff of the area.**
3. **Notify Facility Manager or designate and he/she will notify RCMP.**
4. **All staff should be on the alert for the missing newborn and question/observe/report any individual's carrying an infant.**
5. **If newborn is located, the Facility Manager or designate shall page "Code Pink" all clear.**
6. **See "Code Pink" Policy in Regional Policy Manual.**