

Sunshine Coast Paediatrics

The Sunshine Coast Paediatrics Team consists of three specialist Paediatricians

Dr James Scorer, Dr Julian Paxton and Dr Anthony Morosini.

We look after the babies born at The Sunshine Coast Private Hospital as well as other hospitals on the Sunshine Coast. A Paediatrician is always available to provide the best of care for your newborn baby.

The Role of a Paediatrician

A Paediatrician is a doctor who has done a long period of extra training in the medical care of newborn babies and children. He or she plays an important role ensuring your newborn baby is well and developing appropriately. An examination by a Paediatrician is strongly recommended following birth, to identify any health problems that may impact on your baby. We also recommend that your baby has a final examination between 4-6 weeks of age to ensure that he or she is healthy and growing and developing well.

The Process

Your Obstetrician will usually ask a Paediatrician to see your baby. The recommended and accepted standard of care for babies born in Australia is that your baby should have an examination in the first 24 hours post birth and another one between 3-7 days of life. In between these examinations the midwives will help you with the establishment of feeding and caring for your newborn baby. If you have any concerns between examinations, you should inform your midwife, who will notify us and ask us to see your baby. There is a Paediatrician on site during the week and on call after hours to ensure every baby has the best possible care.

The Newborn Examination

First the Paediatrician will talk to you, ask if there were any significant problems during the pregnancy, or if there are any significant illnesses that run in your family that can affect your child. A thorough physical examination from “top to toe” will be performed. The aim of the examination is to ensure that your baby is normally formed, adapting to life outside the womb and is medically well.

Birth

Most babies are born in good condition and the presence of a Paediatrician at delivery is not required. If your Obstetrician has any concerns about the condition of your baby before delivery the presence of a Paediatrician at the birth may be requested. Planned caesarian sections at term are just as safe as a vaginal birth and so a Paediatrician will not routinely attend.

Premature and Sick Babies

Premature and sick babies will routinely be admitted to the Special Care Nursery. Babies more mature than 32 weeks can potentially be cared for here at Sunshine Coast Private Hospital. Each baby will be assessed individually and treated according to his or her needs. Your baby may need to be in a humidicrib and may need treatment potentially with oxygen, blood sugar monitoring, blood tests, antibiotics, intravenous drip and tube feeds etc. If your baby is very sick, they may need to be transferred to an Intensive Care Nursery in Brisbane.

Jaundice and Phototherapy

Jaundice is the medical term for a yellow discoloration of the skin. Babies often become jaundiced between days 3 and 5 of life. If baby looks too yellow or if there are risk factors for the more severe jaundice, a blood test is done to make sure that the jaundice level is not too high. If the blood

level is too high, then phototherapy treatment may be recommended.

Follow-up after Discharge

It is important to ensure your baby is feeding well and growing. Baby should be weighed 7-10 days after discharge. To ensure that your baby is getting the best start, developing and thriving normally, a post discharge check at 4-6 weeks of age by a paediatrician is recommended.

Billing & Costs

If your baby is well and stays in the room with you then the baby is classified by Medicare as a “boarder baby” and is not officially admitted to the Hospital. Therefore visits by Paediatricians are regarded as an outpatient service. Usually you will be charged a fee for each consultation by the Paediatrician. If you are eligible, Medicare benefits are available.

Families who have already exceeded the Safety Net Threshold in that calendar year may be able to claim 80% of their out of pocket non inpatient expenses. Generally the out of pocket expense for your consultations for a well baby should not exceed \$200.

In the event of an attendance at a caesarean section or birth, the Paediatrician on call may charge an additional fee.

If your baby is unwell and is admitted to the Nursery overnight, then the baby is recognized as being a patient in the Hospital, and your private health fund will help to cover medical fees.

Should you have any queries regarding the paediatrician fees, please do not hesitate to contact Sunshine Coast Paediatrics on 5441 4788.