

Discussing Cerebral Palsy (CP)

The Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic team pays close attention for signs of certain conditions after discharge. One of these conditions is CP.

If there are early signs of CP, the team will observe your baby more closely, make referrals for early intervention, and provide information for you while an assessment is made.



marcin-jozwiak/unsplash

What do I need to know?

After carefully observing your baby's movement, muscle tone, and considering their NICU history, the clinic team noticed some early signs that could suggest CP. **This does not mean your baby is diagnosed with CP.** Further observation and testing are needed.

Understanding and identifying CP is important to help support your child's development and improve their quality of life.



While CP is lifelong, the brain injury is not progressive.

What is CP?

CP affects the brain's ability to communicate with the muscles. It happens when the brain has an injury or does not develop as expected. This can impact a child's movements, muscle control, and balance. These conditions become noticeable in infancy or early childhood. Each child's experience with CP is different because the brain injury that causes CP affects different brain areas. Some children have mild challenges, while others may face bigger ones.

What are the next steps?

Your baby's Neonatal Follow-up Clinic team will create a plan to both monitor for CP, and support you and your baby. This includes early intervention and support such as specialist appointments, observation, and therapies.

Your clinic team has requested:

Your next Neonatal Follow-Up appointment:

Contact us:

What Can I Do Now?

1. **Ask Questions.** Your Neonatal Follow-up Clinic team is here for you.
2. **Work with your early intervention team.** This will support your child's development.
3. **Build your Support Network.** Connect with other parents, support groups - CP is a journey, and support can make a difference.

Remember, you're not alone.



Visit us online for more resources
canadianpreemies.org

