



## **Hospital Courtesy Room**

In an effort to facilitate parental bonding with newborns and promote breastfeeding opportunities, Carteret Health Care, The Brady Birthing Center, and the Maternal Child Health Staff support the mother's use of a courtesy room, when available, during any infant's continued stay.

Once mothers have been discharged, they are no longer considered patients of the hospital. This room has been offered as a way to allow discharged mothers to be close to their newborn(s) in the most comfortable manner possible. To increase understanding and avoid misunderstandings regarding the use of a courtesy room, we would like to explain how this process works:

- We are able to order a breakfast, lunch and dinner tray for the mother while the newborn is a patient, but we can only provide one tray with each meal.
- As a discharged patient, we will not be completing physical assessments or taking vital signs, and cannot dispense any medications to the mother.
- If the baby is rooming in with mother in the courtesy room, a banded adult must remain with the baby at all times.
- We ask mothers to inform the nursing staff when the room is no longer needed and to leave a contact number where they may be reached. If the baby remains in the special care nursery, mothers are free to come and go from the hospital as desired.

If the hospital census becomes high due to inpatient admissions, we will no longer be able to provide discharged mothers with a room. The nursing staff will then work with mothers to develop a plan for visiting their babies.