

DIMENSIONS FOR DONATED HANDMADE ITEMS

Note: Use tightly wound yarn where the fibers are NOT fuzzy in any way (can constrict airways) See page 2 for specific guidelines

Baby Blankets

- Knit/Crochet blanket – 30 by 30 inches
- Fleece Blanket – Either 20 by 20 inches or 40 by 50 inches
- Flannel Blanket – Either 20 by 20 inches or 20 by 30 inches
- Coverlets – 13 by 18 inches – Use a solid pattern with no openings for baby toes and fingers to get tangled

Infusion Center Blankets

- Fleece Blanket – Lap blanket is 48 by 48 inches. The large blanket is 54 to 60 inches wide by 60 to 78 inches long.
- Fleece Scarf – 6 by 51 inches (depends on width of fleece)
- Knit/Crochet Scarf – 6 by 40 inches (approximately)
- Fleece Neck Warmer – 19 inches long by 25 inches wide

Chemotherapy Caps

- Needs to fit comfortably on a woman's or man's head. The width of the cap depends on how much the cap stretches. In general, the cap needs to stretch to a 22 inch circumference. The depth of the cap is approximately 8 inches with no rolled back brim, or about 11 inches with a rolled back brim.

Vision squares

- Knit/Crochet vision squares – Either a 7 by 7 inch square or a 7 by 4 inch rectangle
- Use pastel colors

Fleece Squares

- Six by six inch squares or four by four inch squares. Use all the fleece you have, even if it means that the square is a little bit of a different size. Don't make any smaller than three inches by 3 inches or larger than six inches by six inches.

Northside Special Needs Nursery Needs Updated June 2016

NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

New Participants in the Knitters and Crocheters Program for Community Members

Thank you so much for your interest in participating in an Auxiliary program that provides beautiful, quality, handmade items for Northside Hospital patients and families. We appreciate the time and talent that goes into making these precious gifts.

Because we are providing these items in a hospital environment, they have to meet current hospital standards. Also the Auxiliary needs to keep records of donated items. Here are some guidelines to help us meet these requirements:

- If you want to knit/crochet for the Special Care Nurseries, you must use Lion's Brand Pound of Love. If you want to knit/crochet baby items for newborns other than those in Special Care Nurseries, they can't be made of a fuzzy yarn. Newborns could inhale the fuzz and have respiratory difficulties if the wrong yarn is used.
- If you want to knit/crochet Chemotherapy caps, you need to use a soft, worsted yarn. They should be attractive caps that people want to wear at a time when they aren't feeling good about their appearance.
- You can use any pattern for the Special Care Nursery Baby Blankets. The size of the baby blanket should be 30 inches by 30 inches.
- Basic patterns are available from the Auxiliary for Chemotherapy caps for both knitters and crocheters. You can also use your own patterns, but make sure the cap is the proper size to fit a woman's (or man's) head.
- All baby items need to be washed in fragrance free detergent before bringing them into the Auxiliary office. Chemotherapy caps also have to be washed if your household has a pet, a smoker, or if a cap has gotten soiled.
- Since grocery bags (both plastic and paper) often contain bacteria or food residue, please don't use them to store or bring your items into the Auxiliary office. Instead, use department store or similar bags.
- When you bring your finished items into the Auxiliary office, please put your name, telephone number, and name of the group (if applicable) in the bag so we know whose they are.

Thanks for your generosity.

Call me any day before 8 PM if you have any questions.

Judy Lewis
770 587-3053

Vision Squares

Must have ties to be taped to the incubator, or else the hospital uses tape to keep the vision square on the incubator. Pastel colors and/or combination of colors (prints) are good, but the babies cannot distinguish textured material.

Fleece Squares

Are used to place on a baby's cheek so his nose tubing, etc. won't stick to him.

Large fleece blankets

These blankets are used to block the bright lights and sound. If a sewn blanket is used, please use some form of stuffing between the layers to help block the light.

Blankets and isolette covers

Northside Hospital never has enough blankets or isolette covers.

Colors

For palliative care babies (babies who don't survive), please use mostly white and/or a combination of white and pastel light colors such as pink, blue and light green. Palliative care babies usually have bad skin color due to their condition and colors heighten this discoloration. However, Northside Hospital had one baby whose skin color was so white, they couldn't use a white blanket as the baby could not be distinguished from the blanket.

Pompoms

Even though they are very attractive, do not use them as they can unravel, are fuzzy and could be inhaled by the baby. The loose yarn can also wrap around their fingers and cause problems, including the need for amputation.

Burial Pouch

The hospital will not use burial pouches. The parents want to see all of their baby, the burial pouches reinforce the parent's knowledge that their babies are different from surviving babies and they want to remember how the entire baby looked.

Hats and blankets falling to the floor

The hospital will not reuse these items, however, every babies parent is given a laundry bag so that the parents can launder these items, reuse them or keep them as keepsakes.

Why are more babies born at Northside Hospital than any other hospital in the United States?

Northside Hospital has a tremendous reputation because it stresses the health of the mothers and infant.

Other Miscellaneous Information

Requirements to be released from the hospital

Must eat on their own

Gain Weight

No problems with breathing

Babies born at 20 weeks or less never survive. They rarely survive at 22 weeks, but can survive at 23 weeks. Babies can survive weighing less than one pound at birth.

Northside Hospital Appreciation Days

Volunteer Appreciation Day is usually the 3rd Wednesday in April. Volunteer Appreciation Day is for anyone who would like to come who has donated a special need item to the Hospital. This will be for any AKG member who has contributed something.

Friends of the Auxiliary is usually the 2nd Week in April. This group is for those who have made a volunteer commitment to the Hospital. It includes someone who has made an item, but cannot physically volunteer at the Hospital and it can be used for any volunteer activity. It doesn't have to be for the babies.