

by surrounding air currents. For example, placing the infant in the direct flow of air from a fan or air-conditioner vent will cause rapid heat loss through convection. Transporting the neonate in a crib with solid sides reduces airflow around the infant.

Protect from Infection and Injury

The most important practice for preventing cross-infection is thorough hand washing of all individuals involved in the infant's care. Other procedures to prevent infection include eye care, umbilical care, bathing, and care of the circumcision. Artificial nails are prohibited ([World Health Organization, 2009](#)), and long fingernails are discouraged for health care providers because the former have been implicated in the transmission of sepsis. Vitamin K is administered to protect against hemorrhage.

Identification

Proper identification of the newborn is absolutely essential. The nurse must verify that identifying bands are securely fastened and verify the information (name, gender, mother's admission number, date, and time of birth) against the birth records and the child's actual gender. This identification process should take place optimally in the delivery room. Electronic tags that give off a radio frequency may also be used to prevent newborn abductions ([Vincent, 2009](#)). A tag is placed on the newborn and removed at the time of discharge by hospital personnel.

A proactive hospital emergency plan should be implemented to prevent infant abduction and to respond promptly and effectively in the event one happens. A mock newborn abduction drill is an effective method that can be used to evaluate staff competence and response to the incident ([National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2015](#)). All hospital personnel should be educated regarding newborn abduction, preventive aspects, and methods to identify the potential risk of such an occurrence.

The nurse should discuss safety issues with the mother the first time the infant is brought to her. The [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*](#) (2015) has reported that 58% of infant abductions occur in the mother's room. A written copy of the safety instructions should also be given to the parent. Parents are