



**BRISTOL ROYAL HOSPITAL  
FOR SICK CHILDREN**

**St. Michael's Hill  
Bristol BS2 8BJ**

**Telephone Bristol (0272) 215411 Ext. 361**

GM/KEB

30th December 1985

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Dear Colleague,

Restriction of Admissions from outside Avon to Special Care Baby Unit,  
Bristol Maternity Hospital with effect from 1st January 1986

Regrettably, we are experiencing particularly acute staffing difficulties on our Special Care Baby Unit at the Bristol Maternity Hospital. For this reason the Trust have approved the recommendation that the only way to influence the workload, and at the same time continue to provide an adequate level of care for babies of Avon residents, is to cease admissions of patients (mothers or babies) who normally reside outside Avon. Bookings that have already been made for mothers living outside Avon will however be honoured. Clearly there needs to be some flexibility with this restriction on bookings and as such there will need to be careful vetting by the Consultant on take.

With regard to the Bristol Children's Hospital, acute staffing difficulties also persist here and by taking the above action additional pressures will be placed on ITU. Referrals to the ITU will however continue as at present but acceptance of referrals will have to be subject to the availability of nursing staff. Before any referrals are formally accepted by any member of the medical staff the current and expected workload on the Unit and within the Hospital as a whole should be checked by the Registrar on duty or On Take Consultant with the Senior Nurse in charge so as to ensure that appropriate care can be given to that referral. If neonatal surgical patients have to be refused then the referring Clinician should be advised to seek equivalent paediatric surgical expertise in either Southampton, Oxford, Birmingham, or London, and Miss Noblett, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, has already alerted these centres to this situation.

This restriction on bookings to S.C.B.U. will be operative with effect from 1st January 1986 and will continue until such time as the staffing situation improves on the Unit, and further notification will be made at that time.

We very much regret having to take this action and further regret any inconvenience which this may cause.

Yours sincerely,

GERALDINE MARTIN  
Acting General Manager  
Children's & Obstetrics Sub Unit