



Last Updated: Monday, 26 September 2005, 18:15 GMT 19:15 UK

E-mail this to a friend

Printable version

## Cooing at new-born babies banned

A West Yorkshire hospital has banned visitors from cooing at new-born babies over fears their human rights are being breached and to reduce infection.

A statement from Calderdale Royal Hospital in Halifax said staff had held an advice session to highlight the need for respect and dignity for patients.

On one ward there is a doll featuring the message: "What makes you think I want to be looked at?"

But Labour MP Linda Riordan said the measures were "bureaucracy gone mad".

She told the Halifax Courier: "All mothers want people to admire their babies because all babies are beautiful.

“ Cooing should be a thing of the past because these are little people ”

Debbie Lawson, neo-natal manager

"But in a case where a mother did not want to answer questions it should be up to that individual to say so."

Some new mothers have already said they are astonished by the rules which stop people asking questions about their babies or looking at them in maternity wards.

Debbie Lawson, neo-natal manager at the hospital's special care baby unit, said: "Cooing should be a thing of the past because these are little people with the same rights as you or me.

'Infection control'

"We often get visitors wandering over to peer into cots but people sometimes touch or talk about the baby like they would if they were examining tins in a supermarket and that should not happen."

A spokeswoman for Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust said the advice was as much to do with reducing infection as it was upholding "rights".

### HAVE YOUR SAY

“ If a baby I was cooing over asked me to stop because I was infringing on their human rights then I would ”

Pej, London, UK

Send us your comments

In a statement she said: "Staff were wishing to highlight issues of potential confidentiality, especially for

### WHERE I LIVE



BBC Bradford and West Yorkshire Culture, leisure, travel, message boards and more

### RELATED INTERNET LINKS:

Calderdale Royal Hospital

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

### TOP WEST YORKSHIRE STORIES

- Man on trial for Molseed murder
- High voltage cabling catches fire
- Man charged over night stabbing

News Front Page



Africa

Americas

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Middle East

South Asia

UK

England

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

UK Politics

Education

Magazine

Business

Health

Science/Nature

Technology

Entertainment

Also in the news

Video and Audio

Have Your Say

In Pictures

Country Profiles

Special Reports

RELATED BBC SITES

SPORT

WEATHER

ON THIS DAY

EDITORS' BLOG

young babies and their parents in what can be emotional times.

"Infection control was also a key part of the message as the unit deals with very small babies with very vulnerable immune systems."

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)

 [Printable version](#)

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

[E-mail news](#)

[Mobiles](#)

[Alerts](#)

[News feeds](#)

[Podcasts](#)

 [@BBC](#) [MMVII](#)

[Most Popular Now](#) | 75,214 pages were read in the last minute.

[Back to top](#) ^^

[Help](#) | [Privacy and cookies policy](#) | [News sources](#) | [About the BBC](#) | [Contact us](#)