What is Skin-to-Skin Care (SSC)?

SSC is the practice of holding your baby to your chest directly on your skin. This allows your baby to feel your movements, heartbeat, breath sounds and voice as you take the time to bond with them.

SSC has been shown to reduce stress and improve the growth and development of babies, while also leading to better parent experience and parent-infant bonding.

Sense
Turtle

Put the Turtle over your chest in skin-to-skin care position. The turtle will sense, record and send your breathing motion and heartbeat.

Process
Control module

The Control Module will receive input from the turtle, store it, and use it to control the mattress. Breathing motion will be sent to the mattress as air, and heartbeat will be sent as sound.

Replicate
Mattress

The mattress will inflate and deflate its lungs at the same rate as you breathe, and the sound of your heart will come from within the mattress.

Why Are We Doing This Study?

We understand that parents can't always be in the NICU to do SSC with their babies for many reasons.

Through this study, we seek to evaluate:

1) If the BABYBE SYSTEM® is a feasible and effective way to supplement your baby's care by simulating SSC when you are not able to hold your baby

2) If the BABYBE SYSTEM® might potentially help your baby's growth and development and improve your experience as a parent in the NICU.

What Is My Baby's Involvement In This Study?

1. Your baby will lay on the thin gel mattress, covered by a fitted sheet until they approach their due date

2. Around that time, your baby will receive a brain MRI that will give us more information about their brain growth and development

3. Before your baby goes home with you, we will perform an examination to evaluate your baby's development. We will also ask for feedback regarding your parenting experience in the NICU and with the BABYBE SYSTEM®

Implementing developmental and family-centered care in the NICU is a challenge. We hope this system can improve this for both parents and their babies.