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## Now there's no need to wait to share baby photos

By **BEN LEACH** Staff Writer, 609-272-7261

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When a new baby arrives, family and friends often wonder how long they'll have to wait to see the bundle of joy. Thanks to a new photo kiosk at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point, the baby's parents can share pictures almost immediately.

About two months ago, the hospital's Maternity Care Center installed a kiosk specially designed to take pictures of newborn babies.

The baby is rolled into the booth on a small bed, and the camera is set up overhead. Babies remain flat on their back as their pictures are taken.

"It's very easy to use and they like to get the picture right away," said Tracy Barry, nurse manager of the maternity center. "It saves others the trouble of having to wait two weeks to get the photos in the mail."

Digital technology allows the photos to be shared almost immediately. The machine has several slots for different size camera cards so images can be directly uploaded to cameras. Images can also be shared over the Internet via a secure password.

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If the newborn is crying or otherwise not being photogenic, it's just a simple matter of deleting and retaking the picture. Unlike a traditional photo booth, you can choose what time and how often the pictures are taken.

Many new parents are excited about being able to get higher quality photos almost immediately.

"It's great because we weren't planning to do our own hospital photos," said Meg Walker, 25, of Lower Township.

Walker gave birth to her daughter Katelyn on June 29. Three days later, she and her husband, Joe, 26, brought their baby in for pictures at the kiosk.

Though Katelyn was crying throughout much of the process, the Walkers found a picture of their new daughter they both liked. In addition to all the digital capabilities, the kiosk

does all of the same things traditional photo booths can do. Several packages with photos in different sizes are available, but it does costs to get them printed.

The pictures can also be printed as birth announcements, making them more quickly available after the birth.

The cost might be worth it to some parents who want their hospital photos immediately.

"It's nice to take the picture and put it in the album right away," Joe Walker said.

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