

# Nursery at hospital approved

Watsonville Community Hospital today received approval to establish an intermediate-care nursery for frail and premature infants who need special medical attention.

The 10-bed nursery will be the first of its kind in the Monterey Bay area.

The approval came in the form of a "certificate of need," granted by the office of State-wide Health Planning.

Babies born at Watsonville Community Hospital (and other local hospitals) who need specialized care are now taken to Stanford University Medical Center or as far away as San Francisco.

The new nursery will be housed in existing space at the hospital. Remodeling has begun; completion is expected by September, hospital officials said.

Under a cooperative agreement with Stanford, nurses for the new Watsonville unit, now being recruited, will be trained at Stanford. Doctors and nurses from the perinatal outreach staff at Stanford will be conducting monthly conferences and in-service training for nurses at the Watsonville hospital and local doctors, beginning next week.

Watsonville's nursery will handle premature infants (no more than two months premature), those with mild respiratory diseases, and those who have to be watched closely for one reason or another. Those with life-threatening problems will be transferred to Stanford, which has tertiary (third level) nursery services.

Intermediate care is considered the second level of treatment; primary care is what's available at any maternity room.

The cooperative relationship with Stanford and the initial plan for the Watsonville intermediate nursery were developed by Dr. Wells Shoemaker, a pediatrician and member of the Watsonville hospital's board of directors.