

Neonatal Emergencies Outside the Hospital - Paediatric Full Clinical Guideline - Joint Derby and Burton

Reference no.: NIC GI 08/June 2021/v004

Purpose

To ensure a standardised approach to the care of neonates born outside the hospital and who require medical attention.

Aim & Scope

To give clear guidance for all staff to follow if informed about a neonatal emergency outside the hospital.

Implementing The Guidelines

Neonatal Intensive Care at Royal Derby Hospital, Derby and Queens Hospital, Burton does not have a staffed Neonatal Flying Squad. It is not, therefore, normally possible to respond to a neonatal emergency arising outside the hospital. In such cases, the mother and baby should be transferred together as quickly as possible to the respective Labour Ward if not assessed with a midwife.

If assessed by a midwife and the baby alone require admission soon after birth or within the first 24 hours after birth, the attending midwife will organise this in liaison with the Neonatal registrar/Consultant and NICU co-ordinator. The baby will be transferred by ambulance with the mother if possible. The midwife should contact the NICU co-ordinator to give an estimated time of arrival. If baby is more than 24 hours old, baby need to be sent to Emergency department with prior warning to the staff.

If, in the opinion of the attending professional, it is impossible to move a mother or baby direct to hospital, the Paediatric Registrar on call should be contacted regarding appropriate action and will, if necessary, discuss this with a Consultant Neonatologist.

Basic Newborn Care

1. Put baby in neutral position and, if necessary, apply jaw thrust to ensure airway is open.
2. Commence advanced life support if necessary.
3. Keep the baby warm preferably with warm blankets or, if the baby is otherwise well, by mother cuddling the baby during transfer to hospital.

Documentation Controls

Development of Guideline:	Dr Bala Subramaniam
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