Birth & transfer
Maternal transfer for specialist care


Statement of the standard
Transfer of pregnant women for specialist care (for mother and/or newborn infant) is an essential component of perinatal care and is carried out in a timely, safe and efficient manner.

Benefits
- Improved medical care for pregnant women and their infants
- Improved neonatal, maternal and family outcome
- Improved long-term maternal and child health
- Improved education/training for healthcare professionals
- Improved organisation of perinatal care
- Reduced healthcare costs

For parents and family
- Expectant parents are referred prenatally to the appropriate centre.
- Expectant parents are counselled about the reasons for maternal transfer by healthcare professionals.

For perinatal units
- A unit guideline on maternal transfer identifying different degrees of urgency is available and regularly updated.
- Step down care and transfer back to referring hospital is provided as soon as clinically indicated.
- Adherence to the requirements and boundaries of the assigned level of care is ensured.
- Units are part of a regional perinatal network.

For healthcare professionals
- A unit guideline on maternal transfer identifying different degrees of urgency is adhered to by all healthcare professionals.
- Training on the indications and contraindications for maternal transfer is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.
- Training on neonatal life support is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.

For health service
- A national guideline on maternal transfer identifying different degrees of urgency is available and regularly updated.
- A real-time system to identify availability of beds (maternal/neonatal) is established.
- A regional perinatal transfer network according to the local necessities (distance, geographic peculiarities, communication) in order to ensure safety requirements for maternal/neonatal transfer is designed and quality is regularly controlled.

Here you can access the full standard: https://newborn-health-standards.org/maternal-transfer/