



Birth & transfer

Organisation of perinatal care

Schlembach D, Simeoni U, Nagy Bonnard L, Bernloehr A, Cetin I, Grosek S, Johnston L, Jourdain G, Rossi R

Statement of the standard

Perinatal care is organised in specialist and non-specialist centres to ensure access to optimal, preferably evidence-based, care with respect to medical knowledge, organisation structure, and staff.



For parents and family

- Expectant parents are informed by healthcare professionals about the organisation of perinatal care and the importance of appropriate level of care.
- Expectant parents receive appropriate expert care.
- Care is relocated as close as possible to home as soon as clinically indicated.



For perinatal unit

- A unit guideline on the management of high risk pregnancies is available and regularly updated.
- Expertise in the management of high risk pregnancies is developed in specialist centres.
- Capacity planning is facilitated.
- Care is enhanced by network based education in non-specialist centres.



For hospital

- Training on the management of high risk pregnancies is ensured.
- Appropriate resources are available for the level of perinatal care.
- A continuous perinatal care quality improvement programme is established.
- Accommodation is available for the partner when required.

Benefits

- Improved medical care for all pregnant women and their partners, but especially for women at risk for pregnancy complications
- Improved (physical and psychological) maternal outcome
- Improved neonatal care and outcome
- Improved education/training for healthcare professionals
- Increased specialist expertise



For healthcare professionals

- A unit guideline on the management of high risk pregnancies is adhered to by all healthcare professionals.
- Training on the management of high risk pregnancies is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.
- Healthcare professionals practice as part of a regional perinatal care network with access to agreed protocols and guidelines.



For health service

- Regional perinatal networks are organised.
- A national guideline on the management of high risk pregnancies is available and regularly updated.
- Regional / national oversight is established to ensure safety requirements for pregnancy and birth.
- A perinatal information system to support quality assessment, certification, and audit of network units is established and maintained.

