



Birth &amp; transfer

# Maternal transfer for specialist care

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## 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.



### 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 hospitals

- Training on the indications and contraindications for maternal transfer as well as neonatal life support is ensured.
- Appropriate resources necessary to facilitate maternal transfer are available, including an appropriately trained team.

## 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 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.

