



Birth & transfer

Neonatal transport

Jourdain G, Simeoni U, Schlembach D, Bernloehr A, Cetin I, Gente M, Grosek S, Leslie A, Ratnavel N, Roth-Kleiner M

Statement of the standard

Infants are transferred by a dedicated, specialised medical service that offers a quality of care similar to that promoted in a NICU.

Benefits

Short-term benefits:

- Improved medical care and outcomes for infants needing transfer
- Improved transfer conditions
- Optimised use of NICU and perinatal centres resources

Long-term benefits:

- Improved outcomes for infants and families
- Improved overall performance of regional organisation of perinatal care and reduction of health-care costs



For parents and family

- Parents and family are informed about all aspects of the transfer of the infant by healthcare professionals.
- Parents/one parent are able to accompany the infant during transfer.



For healthcare professionals

- A unit guideline on neonatal transport is adhered to by all responsible healthcare professionals.
- Education and training, including medical simulation training and continuous education/training, are attended by members of the transport team and for other neonatal and obstetric healthcare professionals involved in neonatal transport.



For neonatal unit and hospital

- A unit guideline on intra-hospital neonatal transport, including transport of newborn infants in critical conditions, as part of the hospital organisation is available and regularly updated.
- Trained and experienced healthcare professionals as well as equipment resources needed for intra-hospital neonatal transport are provided.
- Education and training, including medical simulation training and continuous education/training, are attended by members of the transport team and other neonatal and obstetric healthcare professionals involved in neonatal transport.



For health service and regional neonatal transport service

- A regional/national guideline on inter-hospital neonatal transport is available and regularly updated.
- Health service is responsible for the provision of a regional neonatal transport service allowing complete preservation of life functions, such as body temperature maintenance, haemodynamic, respiratory, neurologic, metabolic functions and sepsis management.
- Nurse or midwife assisted neonatal transport of newborn infants who do not need medical assistance (e.g. transfer of newborn infants for step down care) is available.
- A unique regional call and transfer regulation center is organised and continuously available, with a dedicated call number and real time information on the available cots in primary, secondary and tertiary centres.

