



Clinical Practice Guideline

Guideline coverage includes NICU KEMH, NICU PMH and NETS WA

Admission: Infants of Women in ASCU Admitted for Level 1 Care

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#)

Indicated For

Physiologically stable infants born at >35 weeks gestation for whom the mother is unable to provide any care due to her own medical hospitalisation.

Admission and discharge of the newborn care infant is to be performed by nursing staff - daily medical review / intervention is not indicated. However, the infant will require a Day 1 check by both medical and nursing staff within 24 hours of birth. Change the category of care to level 2 if any investigations and/or treatments are necessary (e.g. blood glucose test, insertion of gastric tube).

On arrival to the nursery the nurse must obtain relevant history details, determine the mother's chosen feeding method, and check with the transferring staff member the presence of two correct identibands, gender and condition of the umbilical cord. Ascertain whether Vitamin K / Hepatitis B has been given. The reason for admission is to be recorded in the Register as "Newborn Care". Nurses caring for the infant must document in the progress notes at least once every 24 hours.

Observations

Hourly temperature, heart rate and respirations are to be recorded for the first 3 hours following birth. If the initial observations are within normal limits then a full set of observations (temperature, heart rate and respirations) once per shift and a daily weight.

Infants born 35-37 weeks Gestation / < 2500 grams / Birth weight < 10th Percentile: Observations are to be recorded on the Paediatric Observation and Feeding Chart (MR490) at KEMH and nursery observation sheet at 6B.

Infants born > 37 weeks gestation: Observations are to be recorded on the O&GCCU Neonatal Feeding and Observation Chart (MR425B) at KEMH and Nursery Observation sheet at 6B.

Nutrition

Document an agreed plan of how the infant is to be fed. Do not use dummies / pacifiers / formula milk unless the parent has specifically requested their use or has given consent. Volumes offered and frequency of feeding will be determined on BW and gestation. Infants that are offered a feed and are not interested should be reviewed.

Before each feed, contact ASCU staff to determine whether the mother is well enough to attend to the feed. If the mother is able to breastfeed or give the feed (if

bottle feeding), transport the infant to ASCU. SCN nurses are responsible for transporting the infant to and from ASCU for feeds. ASCU staff are responsible for assisting ASCU mothers with breast / bottle feeding.

Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines

[WNHS Clinical Handover Policy W076](#)
[CAHS Admission of Non Elective Patients](#)

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