



TRANSFER AND DISCHARGE

NEONATAL FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM

The program primarily addresses neonates where there is expected to be > 10% risk of major neurodevelopmental disorder or where due to ELBW/gestation and new technologies the risk of sequelae is unclear. The programme provides an opportunity to closely monitor the infants' progress throughout their early years of life and to provide advice and intervention when appropriate. The program aims to foster research programs by actively encouraging research between interested parties. The focus of the follow up program is objective assessments at key ages.

ROUTINE REFERRALS FOR INFANTS:

- Born < 32 weeks and/or < 1500 grams (NFUP).
- Discharged with an oxygen dependency.
- HIE treated by therapeutic hypothermia (cooled).
- Hyperbilirubinaemia treated with exchange transfusion.

CATEGORIES OF INFANTS ARE:

Group A	< 27 week gestation and or <1001 grams BW (Followed to school age)
Group B	27-31 week gestation and or 1001-1501 grams BW (Followed to 24 months)
Group C	Meningitis/Encephalitis (Followed to 12 months) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizures/symptomatic hypoglycaemia • Abnormal Neurological status at discharge • Major Surgery - cranial, chest, abdominal • Systemic Herpes simplex infections • Exchange transfusion

Infants living in the Perth metropolitan area will be seen by a doctor in the Paediatric Follow-Up Clinic (KEMH/PMH) at regular intervals, usually around the date they were due to be born, then at 4 and 8 months corrected age. A developmental assessment (Griffiths Test) is carried out at 12 months corrected age. The follow-up coordinator will organise all appointments for the follow-up programme.

Appointments for term 4 and 8 months corrected age will be given to parents on discharge, posted or given by the HVN. The developmental assessment appointment (12 months corrected age) will be posted to parents about 4 weeks prior to the appointment date. Any queries regarding the appointment date can be made to the Department of Paediatrics.

Infants < 29 weeks gestation or < 1250 grams birth weight, will have a Bayley assessment at 24 months at KEMH. Subsequent assessments will take place at The State Child Development Centre in Rheola Street. The follow-up coordinator at the Child Development Centre will contact parents when these appointments are due. Appointments are usually yearly.

Prior to follow-up appointments, developmental questionnaires are posted to parents. These questionnaires, when completed, help to assess the infant's progress and monitor growth and behaviour. **Parents should bring the completed questionnaires with them when they attend the clinic.**

Questionnaires will also be forwarded to parents when the infant is 2 and 3 years corrected age. A self-addressed, reply **pre-paid envelope** will be provided for return. These later questionnaires not only help to monitor progress, but are valuable in building up an overall picture of how our "special graduates" fare in their early childhood years. By receiving this valuable information from parents, we are better informed to counsel future parents.

Infants living beyond the Metropolitan area/Country where transport and distance are a problem, receive individualised follow-up with Rural Paediatrics Service/local General Practitioner (GP) and/or KEMH/PMH paediatricians after discussion with parents. If possible we would encourage developmental assessment at 12 months corrected age to take place at KEMH. The Rural Paediatric Team and local doctor will receive a full summary of the infant's stay in the NICU so they will be fully informed of any problems that may need to be followed up.

The Rural paediatric team will contact parents if their infant is due to be seen when they are visiting the area. The local child health nurse and GP will know when the team is due to the area. Developmental questionnaires will be forwarded as above.

TABLE OF ASSESSMENT AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Age	MED/Developmental	Cognitive	Language	Behaviour/Other
4m, 8m		ASQ		
1yr	Griffiths/Devel	ASQ		Health
2yr	Bayley III	ASQ	Rescorla Screen	Health
3yr	Griffiths/Devel	ASQ		CBCL / Health
5yr	WPPSI - III			Health
7yr	WISC - IV			

ASQ- Ages and Stages Questionnaire; CBCL - Child Behaviour Checklist

Please use the attached form to request neonatal follow up data for research/audit.

[Neonatal Follow up data request form](#)

National Standards



Legislation - Nil
 Related Policies - Nil
 Other related documents - Nil

RESPONSIBILITY

Policy Sponsor	Neonatology Clinical Care Unit - Neonatal Coordinating Group
Initial Endorsement	August 2006
Last Reviewed	February 2014
Last Amended	
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