



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Guideline coverage includes NICU KEMH, NICU PMH and NETS WA

End of Life Care: Baptism

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

Parents can request the baptism of their infant to take place at any time. The ceremony can be conducted in private depending on the condition of the infant. To arrange a baptism or naming ceremony contact switchboard to page the on-call Chaplain. The Chaplain will complete and sign the Register and will give a Baptism certificate to the parents.

Equipment

- Small trolley with lace cloth.
- Baptismal bowl with water.
- Cross.
- Vase of flowers.
- Baptismal Register and baptism certificates.

Emergency Baptism

In an emergency and only if the Chaplain cannot arrive in time, a member of the nursing or medical staff may be the Minister of Baptism. The parents are responsible for requesting emergency baptism for their infant. If there is uncertainty as to the name of the infant, the baptism can be properly administered without the use of the name, so long as the identity of the infant is duly recorded in the Baptismal Register.

The Chaplain should be informed of any baptism administered in the form shown above so that she/he can offer ongoing pastoral care or referral.

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