



UNIT DESIGNATION SPECIAL EDITION

During 2001/2 there was a DoH review of Neonatal Intensive Care Services in England. The review concluded that the current delivery of neonatal care is not sustainable and that change is required. The recommendations were:

- All neonatal care should be provided within managed clinical networks with differing types of neonatal units working together to provide appropriate care for the population within their network.
- The networks would agree the needs of individual babies (categories of care)
- The networks would agree the designation of units providing babies care (types of neonatal unit)

Neonatal Networks

In December 2003, in accordance with the DoH review of Neonatal Intensive Care Services, WMSCG approved a strategy proposing:

“The delivery of newborn services of all levels of complexity through managed, provider focussed, clinical networks, ensuring that mothers and babies are provided with care as close to home as possible [...] and that management of the smallest and sickest babies should be through the provision of a small number (one or possibly two per network) of level 3 complex care neonatal intensive care services, [...] with a 24 hour consultant delivered service...”

This strategy advocated the construction of three newborn networks to deliver the service:

- Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country Neonatal Network
- Southern West Midlands Newborn Network
- Central Newborn Network

Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country Neonatal Network

On the 10th November 2004 the Network Board met for the first time. It was agreed at this meeting to commence work on unit designation and to hold a stakeholder conference in order for all interested parties to be involved in the development of the network unit designation process.

Categories of Care, Types of Neonatal Unit and Designation Process

A workshop was held on the 23rd February 2005 where the categories of care and the process for unit designation were decided. The outcomes of the workshop were presented in a report and agreed at the Board meeting held on the 13th April 2005. A large amount of work was then undertaken within the network to take the designation process forward. In May an options analysis day was held with an external review team.

Outcomes of the Designation Process

The outcomes of the options analysis were presented at a stakeholder event on the 29th June 2005. The report of the workshop was agreed at the Board meeting held on the 10th August 2005 which identified further work required prior to the final designation report. The Board agreed to accept the final proposed designation report for discussion at its next meeting on the 5th October 2005. Following discussion the Network Board members will be asked to vote on whether to approve the proposed designation.

This will be an open meeting allowing all interested parties to attend on Wednesday 5th October 2005 at 10 am in the Dinwoodie Lecture Theatre at Stafford Post Graduate Medical School. If you would like to attend and/or raise a question please would you kindly complete the tear off slip below in order for us to be able to cater for the numbers wishing to attend and allow time for those who wish to ask questions.

Next Steps

The Networks objectives for the forthcoming year are:

- To work with individual units/Trusts and commissioners to identify the resources required to implement the proposed designation and to develop an action plan and time frame for its implementation.
- Develop network care pathways and guidelines.

All the reports and minutes of Board meetings mentioned along with further copies of this newsletter are available on the Neonatal Network website at: www.newbornnetworks.org.uk/staffs

I will be attending the Network Board meeting on Wednesday 5th October 2005 at 10 am in the Dinwoodie Lecture Theatre at Stafford Post Graduate Medical School.

NAME: _____

ORGANISATION: _____

I would like to raise the following question:

QUESTION: _____

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University Hospital of North Staffordshire, M038 NSPD, Newcastle Road,
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