

## NICU/LNU Daily Communication Proposal

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The SSBCNMN Repatriation Policy was approved at the September board meeting. The Repatriation Policy aims to facilitate neonatal service providers in the network to work collectively to provide the right level of care for the right baby in the right hospital at the right time. The ultimate aim is to keep babies within the network as close to home as clinically appropriate.
- 1.2 The Repatriation Policy Algorithm (see appendix) identifies a need for a daily conversation between the respective NICU and the LNU to review the progress of any LNU babies currently being cared for on the NICU to keep both the LNU staff and the baby's parents up to date with progress and an anticipated timeframe for repatriation to the LNU.
- 1.3 This proposal aims to strengthen communication between the NICUs and the LNUs through the introduction of a daily telephone call between the Consultants of the Week of the respective units

### 2. Proposal

- 2.1 Following completion of the daily ward round in the NICU the NICU Consultant of the week will telephone the LNUs that they are responsible for in terms of the network care pathway, see table below, to speak with the Consultant of the Week on the LNU

NICU	LNU
University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
	Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

- 2.2 The daily communication between the two Consultants of the Week has two objectives;
  - Provide an opportunity for the NICU to update the LNU of any babies on the NICU that may be suitable for repatriation (babies booked at LNU) or continuing care (other babies not booked at LNU to create capacity in the NICU) and the anticipated time frame for being ready for transfer
  - Provide the LNU an opportunity to identify and discuss with the NICU any existing or potential babies that require care outside of the LNUs care pathway in order that a plan of care can be agreed and an exception report completed as appropriate.
- 2.3 There will be times when babies booked at an LNU may be being cared for at a different NICU than the NICU with responsibility for that LNU, in these cases it is good practice for each NICU to have a daily communication with the LNU where the baby was booked in order to update them on the baby's progress and identify the anticipated time frame for a timely repatriation.

### 3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The draft proposal will be circulated to all the neonatal units in the network to gather comments and suggestions of any amendments required
- 3.2 An amended version will be reviewed and agreed at the next QIPP meeting before bringing a final version for approval to the March board meeting

## Appendix

Figure 1.

### Algorithm for the repatriation of babies to their LNU/SCBU following in-utero or ex-utero transfer

