

Yorkshire and Humber Neonatal ODN Network Clinical Guideline

Title: Resuscitation of the Term Newborn

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This clinical guideline has been developed to ensure appropriate evidence based standards of care throughout the Yorkshire and Humber ODN. The appropriate use and interpretation of this guideline in providing clinical care remains the responsibility of the individual clinician. If there is any doubt discuss with a senior colleague.

Training:

It is the responsibility of each unit to ensure that all members of the team are familiar with the use of the resuscitation equipment available. Training should be included in induction programmes and mandatory updates. All team members providing basic life support for babies should be able to open the airway and provide mask inflation. It is often this, not the ability to intubate, that is life-saving.

The need for resuscitation is often not predictable. These key factors should be considered by all units. See overleaf for current NLS algorithm (appendix 1) and time appropriate saturation levels.

We suggest that each unit complete the questions listed below, laminate this document and display it in appropriate clinical areas.

1. How do you call for help?
2. Who is on your neonatal emergency team?
3. How do you contact a consultant neonatologist?
4. Are there any other teams from whom you could seek help?
5. Where is your emergency equipment?
6. What equipment do you have to remove meconium from the airway?
7. How can you keep the baby warm?
8. Where is your O negative blood?
9. Where is your difficult airway equipment?

A few considerations:

1. Is there enough room around your resuscitaire for the team?
2. Never change the flow rate of gas without rechecking the PEEP
3. Keep your focus on the airway and obtaining chest wall movement
4. There is no need to start cooling on the resuscitaire - all babies need to be warm for resuscitation to be successful
5. At all stages ask - do you need help?
6. The ODN/Embrace website is full of guidelines on more complex conditions

References:

1. NLS Guidelines 2015. <https://www.resus.org.uk/resuscitation-guidelines/resuscitation-and-support-of-transition-of-babies-at-birth/#suggested>

Appendix 1 – NLS algorithm (see below)

