

Neonatal emergency response

Procedure Responsibilities and Authorisation

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Procedure Review History

Version	Updated by	Date Updated	Description of Changes
3	Christine Woolerton	September 2016	One addition

Neonatal emergency response

1. Overview

1.1 Purpose

This protocol is to ensure a timely and appropriate response in a life threatening clinical situation for a neonate at the Waikato Hospital campus.

1.2 Definitions

NICU - Newborn Intensive Care Unit

Neonate - An infant from birth to less than six weeks of age.

Neonatal emergency - a clinical situation for a neonate (in Delivery Suite, Main theatre, NICU, postnatal ward) that is life threatening or will become life threatening without urgent clinical intervention.

2. Clinical Management

2.1 Competency required

Registered nurse

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

NICU registrar

Clinical Nurse Specialist – Neonatology

2.2 Equipment

- Text pagers
- Telephone

2.3 Criteria

In the event of a life threatening or imminent life threatening situation for a neonate any health professional can summons the appropriate assistance from the clinical staff of the Newborn Intensive Care Unit.

2.4 Protocol

The level II CNS/NNP/Registrar or on call CNS/NNP/Registrar (after hours) will carry a dedicated emergency pager. All notifications of a neonatal emergency to the on-call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar are to be via the emergency pager. This pager is to be personally handed to the appropriate person coming on duty before the person going off completes their duty.

2.5 Procedure

Action:

In the event the on call NNP/CNS/registrar will knowingly be unable to attend a neonatal emergency immediately (for example they are about to undertake a clinical procedure such as central line insertion) it is their responsibility to ensure an appropriate health professional is able to respond and attend a neonatal emergency in their absence. This involves handing the emergency pager to this health professional. An appropriate health professional is someone of similar level of knowledge and practice – this may include the ACNM or senior RN.

Rationale:

To ensure that appropriate assistance is received at all neonatal emergencies.

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Document Owner:	Charge Nurse Manager			Department:	NICU		
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Neonatal emergency response

Action:

In the event that the on call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar is unable to attend a neonatal emergency immediately and there is no other suitably qualified health professional available to attend from within NICU, they must:

- Contact the operator and state that they are unable to attend. The operator will urgently page the on-call Paediatric Registrar to attend the emergency situation
- The on call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar is then to make every effort to make themselves available and attend the emergency as soon as practical.
- The on call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar requests the NICU nursing shift co-ordinator attend the emergency either in person or by phoning the shift co-ordinator's mobile phone on 23703

Rationale:

To ensure that the appropriate level of assistance attends the neonatal emergency.

Action:

In the event that the on call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar requests the NICU nursing shift co-ordinator to attend a neonatal emergency, the shift co-ordinator must attend or send a senior NICU staff nurse to attend the emergency.

Should there be no medical personnel responding to the neonatal emergency call then the NICU co-ordinator is responsible for deciding on the appropriate action to summons appropriate assistance in consultation with the medical team managing the emergency. This may include requesting the on-call consultant to attend the emergency or further consultation with the on-call NNP/CNS/Registrar.

Rationale:

To ensure that appropriate medical assistance is available as soon as possible to assist with the management of a neonatal emergency.

Action:

All communication with telecommunications in relation to a neonatal emergency should be by dialling "99777"

Rationale:

To ensure that communications are received and answered in a timely manner.

Action:

In the event of the attending NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar requiring additional assistance, that person will direct Delivery Suite staff to put an urgent call to the NNP/CNS/Registrar's choice of either:

- the **NICU L3 consultant** cell via "99777" or
- the **NICU L3 coordinator/ACNM** via cell ext 23703

In the case of a call to the consultant, clinical staff should be available to talk to the consultant when he/she responds via phone.

Rationale:

To ensure appropriate additional assistance is received.

To enable the consultant to have accurate details of the case for decision-making.

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Neonatal emergency response

Action:

It is the responsibility of the on-call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar to ensure that the pager has sufficient battery life to function correctly. When they receive the pager at the commencement of a shift they must ensure that the “Low cell” alarm is not displayed. In the event the pager displays “Low cell” the they must immediately change the pager batteries.

Rationale:

To ensure that the pagers are functioning correctly at all times.

Action:

The on-call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar must inform telecommunications immediately if they suspect the pager is malfunctioning. Telecommunications may send a test page to ensure the page is functioning correctly or issue a replacement pager.

Rationale:

To ensure that all neonatal emergency pages are received by the pager holder.

Action:

The on call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar must inform telecommunications immediately if the pager is lost. Telecommunications may issue a replacement pager.

Rationale:

To ensure that all neonatal emergency pages are received by the pager holder.

Action:

The on call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar is responsible for deleting previously received pages from the pager.

Rationale:

To ensure the correct page is responded to in the event of a neonatal emergency.

Action:

Communications will send a test page weekly. The on call NICU NNP/CNS/Registrar the time of receiving a test page must, as soon as practical, reply by dialling “777” (or “5777” if calling from a Waikato DHB mobile phone) and inform the operator that they are responding to the test page.

Rationale:

To ensure that the pagers are functioning correctly at all times.

Action:

Telecommunications staff will assume that appropriate assistance for the emergency has been received unless they are informed otherwise.

Rationale:

To ensure personnel involved in this notification process clearly understand their individual responsibilities.

3. Associated documents

Waikato DHB service specific Neonatal emergency procedure - Communications

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Neonatal emergency response

