

Framework for providing Non-invasive ventilatory support (nCPAP or HFNC) in Level 1 units in the Northern Neonatal Network

Background:

The NNN is unique in that comprises of Level 3 and Level 1 units with no Level 2 units. The NNN also covers one of the largest geographical areas. Historically Level 1 units have safely provided non-invasive ventilatory (NIV) support soon after birth to babies 30 weeks gestation and above for short periods of time.

Definition

NIV respiratory support defined as babies on CPAP or High flow nasal cannulae therapy.

Recent data

Over a year, we had 288 babies on CPAP in Level 1 units (CPAP days 589). 34 of these babies continued to receive NIV support in a level 1 unit by day 3, 9 babies by day 5 and only 4 by day 7. Some would have been transferred to Level 3 units for ongoing care, the remainder being weaned from NIV support.

Framework

Definition: NIV respiratory support defined as babies on CPAP or High flow oxygen therapy. Please inform the NNeTS team during their daily ring around of any baby on NIV support even if you are not acutely requesting transfer – this helps us to plan transfer workload.

IN ADDITION please specifically discuss with NNeTS consultant^{*} -

1. Any baby on respiratory support at 2 days of life. *
2. Any baby on NIV with increasing oxygen requirement or increasing pCO₂.
3. Any baby requiring more than 40% oxygen in the first 24 hours of life.
4. Any baby on respiratory support where the baby is not improving as expected.
5. Once repatriated after a period of intensive care, if a baby needs escalating to NIV support.

^{*} Consultant to consultant discussion. Can be contacted via NNeTS number.

^{*} If the baby is stable the discussion can happen during daytime hours unless requesting a transfer.

