

## ADMISSION OF A NEONATE TO POSTNATAL SERVICES

*This LOP is developed to guide clinical practice at the Royal Hospital for Women. Individual patient circumstances may mean that practice diverges from this LOP.*

### 1. AIM

- To ensure appropriate admission criteria followed for admission of a neonate to postnatal services (PS)

### 2. PATIENT

- Neonate

### 3. STAFF

- Medical, nursing and midwifery staff

### 4. EQUIPMENT

- Stethoscope
- Oximeter
- Thermometer

### 5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

#### A. Admission from Birthing Services to PS

Healthy neonate that is born at the hospital and is being cared for by his/her parent/s on the Postnatal Ward is formally admitted but he/she is classified as "unqualified"

- Continue neonatal observations as per the Neonatal Observation LOP

#### B. Readmission for Phototherapy

- Accommodate mother and neonate in a single room on the Postnatal Ward where possible
- Admit the neonate as an inpatient under the Neonatologist on call for Special Care Nursery(SCN) during the week (Monday-Friday) or the Neonatologist on call for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit(NICU) on the weekend and public holidays
- Commence phototherapy immediately
- Ensure Neonatal Registrar (in consultation with the Fellow/Neonatologist on-call) makes a clinical assessment
- Continue neonatal observations as per the Neonatal Observation LOP
- Admit mother if under the care of Midwifery Support Program(MSP)/Midwifery Group Practice(MGP) or has medical problems requiring treatment and/or care
- Classify the mother as a boarder unless she has medical problems requiring treatment and/or care

#### C. Re-admission for other neonatal reasons e.g. poor feeding, weight loss

- Consider re-admission to the Postnatal Ward **within 14 days of birth** provided:
  - there is no known communicable infectious disease risk
  - the reason for re-admission relates to a neonatal problem
- Determine suitability of care on the Postnatal Ward according to clinical criteria
- Continue neonatal observations as per the Neonatal Observation LOP
- Ensure Neonatal Registrar (in consultation with the Fellow/Neonatologist on-call) makes a clinical assessment

#### D. Re-admission for maternal reasons e.g. mastitis, puerperal sepsis

- Admit well neonate to Postnatal Ward as an inpatient (not as boarder) if the mother has been re-admitted
- Commence neonatal observations as per the Neonatal Observation LOP
- Ensure Neonatal Registrar (in consultation with the Fellow/Neonatologist on-call) makes a clinical assessment

#### E. Born Before Arrival (BBA)

- Admit BBA neonate to Birthing Services
- Assess the neonate and admit only if required according to neonatal admission criteria
- Ensure Neonatal Registrar (in consultation with the Fellow/Neonatologist on-call) makes a clinical assessment

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**CLINICAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES**

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Approved by Quality & Patient Safety Committee  
June 2015

**ADMISSION OF A NEONATE TO POSTNATAL SERVICES cont'd**

**6. DOCUMENTATION**

- Neonatal Care Plan
- Paediatric Medication Chart
- Standard Neonatal Observation Chart (SNOC)
- Integrated Clinical Notes
- Cot Card

**7. EDUCATION NOTES**

- These guidelines are developed to :
  - ensure that the neonate is cared for in the optimal environment to meet his/her needs,
  - allow flexibility in the admission criteria to minimise the separation of the mother and neonate whilst ensuring that the neonate's needs are met
  - ensure safe, prompt and effective delivery of care to the neonate admitted to the Postnatal Services through organized and coordinated work of the medical, nursing and midwifery staff<sup>1,2</sup>

**8. RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES/LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES**

- Identification of Newborns
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Home Birth Transfer to Hospital
- Phototherapy
- Born Before Arrival
- Neonatal Observations Guideline

**9. RISK RATING**

- Low Risk

**10. REFERENCES**

- 1 Avery's diseases of the newborn. -- 9th ed. (2011) / [edited by] Christine A. Gleason, Sherin U. Devaskar.
- 2 Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust. Guidelines for admission to the neonatal unit, June 2012.

**REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY**

Reviewed and endorsed Neonatal Services LOPs May 2015  
Previously titled *Admission of a Neonate to Newborn Care Centre or Postnatal Wards*  
Approved Quality & Patient Safety Committee 15/4/11  
Reviewed and endorsed Newborn Care Management Committee 8/12/10  
Previously titled *Admission of Newborn to Ward* approved Quality Council 17/11/03

**FOR REVIEW : MAY 2020**