Neonatal Consultation, Referral and Transfer Arrangements in Collaboration with NETS

Summary This Information Bulletin clarifies the process for those seeking neonatal consultation, referral and transfer arrangements for an unwell neonate.

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NEONATAL CONSULTATION, REFERRAL AND TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS IN COLLABORATION WITH NETS

PURPOSE
This Information Bulletin clarifies the process for those seeking neonatal consultation, referral and transfer arrangements for an unwell neonate.

KEY INFORMATION
Newborn and paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS) is a statewide emergency service for clinical advice and/or retrieval of critically ill neonates, infants and children. NETS is a single point of access for public and private hospitals in NSW and the ACT.

All neonatal critical care transfer requests must be made through NETS.

NETS will coordinate a conference call between the referring clinician and receiving consultant in a tertiary and/or regional hospital to discuss neonatal patient care. This will include immediate care, escalation of local and regional support and transfer or neonatal retrieval.

NETS will provide advice to the referring facility on the final destination of the neonatal transfer and coordinate beds if required.

Where there is a difference of opinion regarding a neonatal transfer, the final decision to transfer will be made by the NETS medical retrieval consultant, in line with the NSW Health Policy PD2010_030 Critical Care Tertiary Referral Networks (Paediatrics).

The Tiered Perinatal Network (TPN) Level 6 facility has a responsibility to accept the neonate if no other facility can accept the transfer.

The referring facility will update details on the Patient Flow Portal (PFP)/Inter-Hospital Transfer (IHT) with the patient details. For non PFP users, the receiving facility will enter the PFP/IHT.

Contact NETS on 1300 362 500
Early notification will enable early assistance.
In a time-critical emergency, NETS notification can occur prior to full patient assessment and investigation.
NETS can be contacted on www.nets.org.au