

Guideline

Collapse or death of an infant or child during transfer

1 Scope

For use with the Paediatric and Neonatal Decision Support and Retrieval Service (PaNDR) for the East of England.

2 Purpose

To guide the PaNDR team during transfers of infants or children who have the potential for acute deterioration or death. This guideline does not relate to palliative care transfers.

3 Recommendations

For very sick infants or children, for whom there is a risk of dying during transfer, careful detailed discussions should take place between the PaNDR team, the PaNDR consultant, the referring team and the family discussing the risks and benefits of transfer. Transferring such infants away from the family may not be in their best interests.

The PaNDR clinical team and local team should discuss the situation with the parents. The discussion should be clearly documented and should include:

- The current clinical condition
- The risk of transferring
- The risk of not transferring
- Plans for the management of deterioration and for resuscitation during transfer, including whether to proceed to receiving unit or return to referring unit
- Family's plan to accompany infant/child, parent(s)/carer(s) should be encouraged to travel in ambulance if possible.

If an infant/child deteriorates during the transfer and requires resuscitation, the ambulance should be safely stopped and the resuscitation plan followed.

The PaNDR consultant should be made aware of the need for resuscitation by the PaNDR team and / or the driver. The decision to stop the resuscitation should be made by the PaNDR consultant after discussion with the team.

In case of an unsuccessful resuscitation it may not be appropriate to proceed to the receiving hospital. In these situations the choice of destination will be



informed by discussion between the PaNDR Consultant, local and receiving teams and the team's earlier discussion with the parents

The PaNDR team should discuss with the local team and PaNDR consultant regarding who is to inform the parents

4 Following an unsuccessful resuscitation attempt

- Record the time of death
- Leave all intravascular lines, drains and ETT tube in situ
- Turn off ventilator, monitors, pumps and disconnect infusions
- For infants maintain incubator temperature

5 Post transfer communication

All deaths in transfer must be reported to the coroner and the East of England Operational Delivery Network.

6 Monitoring compliance with and the effectiveness of this document

The PaNDR team will periodically monitor that the guideline is being adhered to and the results will be presented to the senior team at a governance meeting.

Equality and diversity statement

This document complies with the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust service equality and diversity statement.

Disclaimer

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure they are using the latest version of a document.

Document management

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