

TRANSFER OF INFANT FROM INCUBATOR TO COT				
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN - PROCEDURE GUIDELINE				
DATE DEVELOPED 31/03/2005	DATE EFFECTIVE 08/11/2005	DATE FOR REVIEW 14/10/2017	RISK RATING Medium	WRITTEN BY CNC K.B.Lindrea
DATE REVISED 14/10/2014	REVISED BY NE J Sheils			
APPLICABLE TO	Newborn Care Centre Staff – Nursing & Medical			
IMPLICATIONS	To be included in induction training of all nursing staff. 15 staff to be randomly audited on the procedure for evidence of knowledge of the procedure.			
DATE POSTED ON NCC WEBSITE	7/11/14			
APPROVED BY Newborn Care Centre Quality Committee 4/11/14 (by email)				
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ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS OF TERMS				

INTRODUCTION

For preterm infants to be discharged home they must be able to maintain their body temperature in an open cot. Early transfer may cause the infant to become cold stressed leading to increased cellular metabolism and therefore poor growth (Hackman, 2001). The weight criteria for transfer differs in the literature but ranges from 1500g -1600g. (New, 2011; Schneiderman et al, 2009; West et al, 2005)

AIM:

To safely wean an infant from an incubator environment to a cot.

Note:

- Infants < 1500g are to remain in the incubator unless otherwise advised by medical team.
- Incubator temperature should be 28⁰C or less for 48 hours prior transfer.
- Consistent weight gain for 7 days prior to transfer.
- Infant’s body temperature has been stable at ≥ 36.5⁰C for 48 hours.
- Avoid bathing the infant on day of transfer into cot.

EQUIPMENT

- Clean cot/Hard crib
- Clothing
 - Hat
 - Singlet
 - Jumpsuit with long arms & legs
- Bed Linen
- Warm bunny rug

PROCEDURE

1. Confirm with senior staff that infant is ready to be transferred from incubator to cot.
Check that the infant meets the following criteria:
 - Body temperature stable at $\geq 36.5^{\circ}\text{C}$.
 - No episodes of apnoea and bradycardia.
 - Consistent weight gain for the last 7 days if extremely low birth weight.
2. Inform parents of plan to transfer into a cot if possible. Ensure the presence of Identification labels X 2 on the infant and 1x label on feeding tube.
3. Attend to cares prior to transfer to cot.
4. Dress the infant in a singlet, jumpsuit and hat. **R1**
5. Wrap the infant in two warm bunny wraps from blanket warmer and place infant in cot.
6. Cover the infant with appropriate linen.
7. Check the infant's temperature two hours post transfer and then at next cares. **R3**
8. Remove all linen from the incubator and transfer the infant's belongings to cot.
9. Document time of transfer and temperature in the Observation Chart and nursing notes.
10. Keep incubator beside the infant until their temperature has been stable ($36.5\text{-}37.1^{\circ}\text{C}$) for 24 hours.

Note: Infants to be returned to incubator if unable to maintain temperature $\geq 36.5^{\circ}\text{C}$.
The decision to retransfer the infant to the cot will be decided by the treating team.

RATIONALES

Rationale 1	Prevent heat loss due to convection
Rationale 2	Prevent heat loss due to conduction
Rationale 3	Prevent unwrapping the infant whilst adjusting to new environment

REFERENCES

Hackman, P.S (2001) Recognising and understanding a cold stressed infant. *Neonatal Network*, 20, 8 pp 35-41
 New, K., Flenday, V., & Davies, M.W. (2011) Transfer of preterm infants from incubator to open cot at lower versus high body weight. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*.
 Schneiderman, R., Kirby, S., Turenne, W., & Greenspan, J. (2009) Incubator weaning in preterm infants and associated practice variation. *Journal of Perinatology*, 29, pp 570-574.
 West, C.R., Williams, M., & Weston, P.J. (2005) Feasibility and safety of early transfer of premature infants from incubators to cots: A pilot study. *J. Paediatr. Child Health*, 41, pp 659-662