



Readmission of Babies to Hospital Post Discharge

Neonatal units' policy of readmitting babies after discharge home tends to vary but following 2 recent SUIs in which the admission and treatment of babies with severe jaundice was delayed it was decided that a more formal guideline should be drawn up. Currently some units will not admit any baby once they have been home as they are concerned about the risk of introducing infection to their neonatal units. Other units will admit babies up to 7 or 10 days post discharge. In most instances babies who require readmission can be cared for on the postnatal wards or general paediatric wards depending on the clinical symptoms and/or diagnosis. However, there are a few situations, **almost always within the first 7 postnatal days**, where the baby requires urgent treatment a neonatal unit or PICU is the most appropriate setting. Such conditions include:

- Severe jaundice requiring immediate exchange transfusion
- Surgical emergency eg Volvulus in neonate
- Duct dependent cardiac lesions presenting post discharge

If a baby presents to A & E with a condition requiring **URGENT** medical or surgical treatment it is important that this is recognised and they are transferred to the appropriate setting without delay. If this includes **readmission to a neonatal unit** the clinician involved should check:

- That baby has not been in close contact with other children/adults with URTI or eg influenza, RSV
- The baby has not been in close contact with other known contagious disease eg chicken pox

Providing this is not the case there is **no contraindication to readmission to a neonatal unit**.

If baby needs transferring to another hospital then the appropriate* transport team should be called and transfer arranged ASAP

* NTS if baby going to a NNU, CATS or STRS if going to PICU (NTS **can/should** retrieve for A&E if baby going to NNU)

If any difficulties encountered in referral for specialist care, contact local Neonatal Network NICU consultant for advice.

Readmission of Jaundiced Baby post Discharge

Remember contact local consultant early in decision making process if unsure

