

Southampton Oxford Neonatal Transport Guideline

NEONATAL THERMOREGULATION

Hypothermia <36°C (outside of therapeutic hypothermia) is a never event and should be reported on the incident reporting system

On route to referring unit

Use humidity if baby <28/40 or <1 kg in first 7 days and consider use in babies <30 weeks if thermal instability.
 Ensure incubator is set an appropriate temperature and start humidity on route.
 Use 200mls of sterile water on humidity sponge OR place wet sterile gauze in the bottom corners of Vygon NeoHelp bag

On arrival at referring unit

Request driver to increase temperature in ambulance cabin
 Measure baby axilla temperature
 If temperature $\geq 36.5^{\circ}\text{C}$
 Maintain thermo-neutral environment
 Continuous monitoring skin temperature using skin probe.
 If temperature $< 36.5^{\circ}\text{C}$
 Minimal handling- only perform emergency procedures
 Increase the incubator temperature and consider neoHELP bag and hat
 Consider:

- adding humidity for extreme preterm infants as outlined above.
- bubble wrap.
- servo-control heating device eg. Criticool if appropriate.
- transwarmer. **Note: RISK OF BURNS.** To minimise risk:
 - ensuring the transwarmer is activated at room temperature (no higher).
 - place transwarmer clear side down with a sheet between the baby and transwarmer.
 - Remove the transwarmer once normothermic.
 - Monitor baby's skin continuously and recheck axillary temperature every 15 minutes.

When ready to transfer baby into the transport incubator

Recheck axilla temperature.
 Ideally baby temperature should be $>36.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ before transferring except in some T/C transfers.
 Move the baby into transport incubator. Ensure minimal delay; close the door and work through portholes.
 Ensure that airflow is not blocked by bedding
 Place incubator cover over incubator

On transferring to the ambulance

Ensure cabin temperature in ambulance is optimised.
 If the incubator temperature in excess of 38°C is required, it is possible to override normal temperature range by pressing both up and down arrows to reach maximum of 39.9°C .

On arrival to receiving unit

Measure and document the axillary temperature prior to moving