

# SOUTHAMPTON OXFORD NEONATAL TRANSPORT

## TRANSFERS FOR END OF LIFE CARE

### Background.

A number of recent publications focus on care pathways for neonatal treatment and care towards the end of life. Clinicians are encouraged to take the family's wishes into account as far as possible when discussing and planning the best place for palliative care to be offered: in hospital, a children's hospice or at home. Transfer for end of life care is a recognised and valued aspect of work undertaken by the SONeT service.

### Children's hospices in the TV & Wessex and surrounding area ( [www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk](http://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk))

<b>Helen and Douglas House</b> 14a Magdalen Road, Oxford. OX4 1RW 01865 794749 <a href="http://www.helenanddouglas.org.uk">www.helenanddouglas.org.uk</a>	<b>Naomi House and Jack's Place</b> Stockbridge Road Sutton Scotney, Winchester SO21 3JE 01962 760555 <a href="http://www.naomihouse.org.uk">www.naomihouse.org.uk</a>	<b>Alexander Devine (Outreach)</b> Pechiney House, The Grove, Slough, BERKS. 0845 055 8276 <a href="http://www.alexanderdevine.org">www.alexanderdevine.org</a>
<b>Keech Hospice Care (MK)</b> Great Bramingham Lane, Streatley, Nr Luton. BEDS 01582 492339 <a href="http://www.keech.org.uk">www.keech.org.uk</a>	<b>Acorns (Three counties)</b> 350 Bath Road, Worcester WR5 3EZ 01905 767 676 <a href="http://www.acorns.org.uk">www.acorns.org.uk</a>	<b>Zoes Place</b> Esther Way, Ash Green Coventry. CV7 9JG 02476 361675 <a href="http://www.zoes-place.org.uk">www.zoes-place.org.uk</a>
<b>Julia's House Hospice.</b> 135. Corfe Mullen Road. Wimbourne Dorset 01202389837 <a href="http://www.juliashouse.org">www.juliashouse.org</a>	<b>Chestnut Tree House.</b> Dove Lane. Arundel. West Sussex. BN18 9PX 01903 871800 <a href="http://www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk">www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk</a>	

### Other children's outreach teams include:

- Oxfordshire Community children's nursing service: 01865 402700
- Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Florries children's team: 01296 394710
- Great Western Hospital, Swindon. Community nursing team,: 01793 604020
- Northampton. Children's outreach nurses: 01604 545517 / 523896
- Wexham Park. Community children's nursing team: 01753 634617
- Southampton Outreach team 07766994816/02381206618
- Poole Community Team. 01202389837/Lynda Jones 07850928120
- Chichester Community Team 01903 871802
- Portsmouth Community Nursing Team 02392 219396
- Winchester Community Team. 01962 824283
- Salisbury Community Team. 01202336262 ex 4053/4563
- Basingstoke Community Team 01256 313693
- Dorchester Community Team 01305 254279
- Isle of Wight Community Nursing Team 01983 534690

### Transferring a baby to a hospice or home – 'expected death'

- Liaise directly with the primary care team, community nurses /nursing and medical teams at the hospice.
- Complete an '[Advanced care plan](#)' (ACP) with the family: This should include resuscitation guidance, what to do in the event of deterioration, the wishes of family and contact details for key members of staff. Parents should be given a copy.
- Optimise pain medication and non-pharmacological interventions to provide comfort during the transfer.
- Check that arrangements to address mother's care needs have been put in place.

# SOUTHAMPTON OXFORD NEONATAL TRANSPORT

- Ensure that all relevant speciality teams in hospital and community have been notified of the transfer.
- Clarify the anticipated plan and time frame on arrival at destination eg: compassionate extubation
- Confirm that a doctor (GP or hospice) will be present to receive handover of care on arrival, especially if death is likely to occur relatively soon, as the doctor will need to see baby alive in order to subsequently issue the death certificate. Clarify who should be called when death occurs and post-mortem plans.
- Plan the logistics: access to the house/hospice, medications and equipment required.
- Clarify arrangements for the notification of death to the primary care team, child death overview panel etc after death and the subsequent bereavement support for the family.
- Ensure that teams are offered an opportunity to debrief and access psychological support after the transfer.

## **Transferring the body after death (taking a deceased baby to a hospice or home)**

- Ensure that the death has been certified and the medical certificate of cause death (MCCD) has been issued.
- Notify the police (9)111 and to provide a letter to the family if they wish to personally transfer the body.
- Consider the need to loan the cooling mattress (available from bereavement teams and neonatal services )