

**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL
SPECIAL CARE NURSERY
WOMEN'S SERVICES
COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE STANDARDS**

Effective Date: 6/04

Policy: WWS 9302

Comments:

Origin: SCN

Reviewed:4/13

Approved: 6/04

Revised: New,4/13

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Admission To Special Care Nursery

SCOPE: This policy applies to Special Care Nursery

I. PURPOSE

To provide care for all infants <28 days of life requiring specialized neonatal care within Washington Adventist Hospital.

II. POLICY

The Special Care Nursery (SCN) is a level II nursery, designated, equipped and staffed to care for ill neonate. Our patient population includes premature infants, infants with respiratory difficulties, infectious disease, nutritional deficits, hematological problems, and those requiring observation for problems following delivery. All infants are admitted under the care of the staff neonatologists/pediatricians.

A. Admission Criteria

1. Infants less than 4 lbs. (1818 grams) or less than or equal to 32 weeks gestation.
2. Infants in respiratory distress requiring any ventilatory support or supplemental oxygen.
3. Infants requiring intravascular fluid or medication.
4. Infants who are cyanotic.
5. Infants with major anomalies.
6. Infants requiring vital signs more frequently than every 4 hours.
7. Infants requiring gavage feeding.

B. Admission Note and Assessment Sheet

1. All patients admitted to the SCN will have an Admission Note and Newborn Assessment Form completed.
2. Vital signs should be completed within 15 minutes of admission. The physical assessment will be completed within 6 hours of admission and the Newborn Assessment Form will be completed.

C. Identification Process

1. A four-part bracelet will identify all infants. (See Infant Identification and Safety CPS.

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2. A bracelet is placed on each of the infant's ankles, by the L&D RN; one bracelet is placed on mother's wrist and the fourth bracelet is placed on the support person's wrist. The mother will designate the support person. The nurse must apply the bracelet.
3. When the infant is admitted to the SCN, the RN will check the infant's ID bands to make sure they are properly applied and that the information matches the information on the Newborn Identification Form.

III. PROCEDURE:

A. The SCN RN will:

1. Prepare radiant warmer, oxygen, ventilator (as ordered), suction, cardiac monitor, IV fluids, tubes for labs, scale, UAC tray, and warm packs. Notify respiratory therapy practitioner.
2. Check the neonate's ID band pursuant to Infant Identification and Safety CPS.
3. Check bands for accuracy with L&D RN.
4. Document time and date on the Newborn Identification Sheet and sign with L&D RN verifying correct and matching baby Identification Bands.
5. Weigh and measure length of the neonate and document.
6. Maintain thermoregulation by placing the neonate under radiant warmer, start O2 as ordered.
7. Place neonate on the cardiac monitor and oximeter.
8. Obtain neonate's vital signs: respiratory rate, apical pulse and blood pressure in all extremities, as ordered by physician.
9. Obtain Accucheck.
10. Administer vitamin K
11. Administer erythromycin ointment
12. Draw blood as ordered.
13. Assist with or insert IV and begin IV therapy per physician's orders.
14. Document all information on the SCN flow sheet, Code Pink Form if called for, and Nurses' Notes and Assessment Sheet.
15. Notify MD of any change in status.

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IV. TEACHING:

Educate newborn's parents of the following:

- A. Purpose of tests, cardiac monitor, IV lines, and care needed.
- B. Provide emotional support by watching for verbal and nonverbal signs.
- C..Maintain open communication
- D. Instruct need for all visitors to wash hands thoroughly prior to entering nursery
- E. Encourage proper touch, based on needs of baby
- F. Encourage and initiation pumping if mother plans to breastfeed.
- G. Encourage parents to ask questions to reduce fears
- H. Encourage Skin to Skin when appropriate

REFERENCES:

AAP & ACOG Guidelines for Perinatal Care 7th Ed Washington DC

Deacon, J. & O'Neill, P. 1999. Core Curriculum for Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing, 2nd Ed., Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders & Co.

Cloherly, John P., Eichenwald, Eric C., Hansen, Anne R. and Stark, Ann R. Manual of Neonatal Care 7th Ed. 2012 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins