

6026 NEONATAL CONSIDERATIONS

General Considerations:

- A. A neonate refers to a newly born child under the age of 30 days. While most neonates transition to post-natal life without difficulty, 10% will require medical assistance. Respiratory insufficiency is the most common complication observed in the newly born.
- B. Neonates born precipitously may exhibit signs of stress such as apnea, grunting respirations, lethargy or poor tone
 - 1. Provide warmth, bulb suction mouth and then nose, and dry the infant
 - 2. If breathing spontaneously, HR >100 and infant is vigorous, continue to monitor
 - 3. If apneic, cyanotic, lethargic, or HR <100, provide 100% oxygen via BVM ventilations at a rate of 40-60 bpm
 - 4. If HR < 60, begin CPR at 3:1 compression:ventilation ratio.
- C. For neonates who do not respond to initial interventions as above:
 - 1. Obtain blood glucose level and if < 60, administer dextrose IV/IO (D10 4 mL/kg)
 - 2. Administer epinephrine IV for persistent HR < 60
 - 3. Consider hypovolemia and administer 10-20ml/kg NS over 5-10 minutes
- D. Neonates with congenital heart disease may not be detected prior to hospital discharge after delivery. Consider a cardiac cause of shock in the neonate who remains hypoxic or has persistent cyanosis despite 100% oxygen. These neonates may decompensate precipitously and fluid administration should be used judiciously (10ml/kg NS)
- E. Newborns are at high risk for hypothermia. Provide early warming measures, keep covered as much as possible (especially the head) and increase the temperature in the ambulance
- F. Acrocyanosis (cyanosis of only the hands and feet) is normal in newborns and does not require intervention
- G. Prolonged apnea without bradycardia or cyanosis may indicate respiratory depression caused by narcotics. However, naloxone should be avoided in infants of a known or suspected narcotic-addicted mother as this may induce a withdrawal reaction. Respiratory support alone is recommended
- H. Obtain pregnancy history, gestational age of the neonate, pregnancy complications, and any illicit drug use during pregnancy.