Neuro-developmental follow up of babies from St. Peter’s Neonatal Unit

**HIGH RISK babies**
Special follow up arrangements are available for a selected group of higher risk babies who are discharged from St. Peter’s NICU. There is a monthly development clinic (Tuesday morning) held by Dr. Tracy Lawson, Consultant Neonatal Paediatrician, Dr Kate Irwin, Consultant Paediatrician with a special interest in Neurodisability and Anna Will superintendent physiotherapist from White Lodge (centre for children and adults with neurodisability). The aim of this clinic is the early identification of neurodevelopmental delay. If babies are identified on NICU as being neurologically abnormal, please see pathway for referral to the community neurodisability service.

A database of eligible babies is kept by Debbie Evans, Clinical Data co-ordinator. Patients are booked in to the clinic by Dr. Lawson at the appropriate corrected gestational age (5 – 6 months). This appointment will be in addition to their usual follow up with the attending Neonatal Consultant. Eligible babies are:

1. Very preterm (< 31 weeks gestation) or low birth weight (<1250g)
2. Parenchymal changes on ultrasound (HPI, PVL, porencephaly, or some with ventriculomegaly)
3. Moderate (Sarnat Stage 2) encephalopathy
4. Meningitis or encephalitis

Babies are seen once or at most twice in this clinic. If appropriate, referral will then be made to Multi Agency Referral pathway (MAP) to identify appropriate community professional involvement If there are no concerns, the baby will be discharged from the clinic back to their named Neonatal Consultant’s care.

Please discuss with Dr. Lawson any other baby who you feel might require neurodevelopmental follow up. We are only able to offer follow up for St. Peter’s local babies. Others will require follow up at their referring hospitals. Surrey Community Health Paediatricians only follow up children who are registered with a Surrey GP.

Colleagues in other clinics who have concerns about a baby’s motor development can also, with parental consent, refer to MAP for appropriate developmental input including physiotherapy and portage.
Pathway for referral to the Community Paediatric Neurodisability service.

All babies identified as having abnormal neurology whilst on NICU should be referred to the Community Paediatric Neurodisability service. Community Paediatricians can be contacted through Goldsworth Park or via their mobile phones. At this stage they are likely to recommend early referral into the MAP process to avoid delay. This will be either through a CAF or by detailed letter with consent gained from parents to share medical information with non-health professionals that sit on the MAP panel (e.g. portage). Where possible a community Paediatrician will attend discharge planning meetings.

Please also liaise with the Neonatal Community Nursing team.

Early discharge planning is vital to ensure the relevant parties are involved. This should be coordinated through the MAP process:

- A referral letter should be faxed to Anne Brown in CAS (Tel 01932 560 909, Fax 01932 570589) and confirmation of its receipt acknowledged.

- Contact the Community Paediatric Consultants via Goldsworth Park (Tel 01932 728201) to discuss a discharge planning meeting.

- Complete a CAF form.

- On discharge from NICU, the baby may need a follow up with the attending Consultant until their care is transferred to the Community Neurodisability service, particularly if they have other medical needs e.g. chronic lung disease, gastro-oesophageal reflux.
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Neurodevelopmental follow up pathway

Nigh risk NICU babies
• <31 weeks
• <1.25kg
• Parenchymal changes on USS (HPI/PVL/porencephalic cyst)
• HIE (moderate)
• Meningitis/encephalitis

Full neurological examination by senior doctor on NICU
If necessary refer to hospital physiotherapist for assessment.

Normal Neurological exam

6 – 8 weeks follow up with attending Consultant
AND Neurodevelopment clinic 5 – 6 months CGA (Dr. Lawson to book)

Abnormal Neurological exam

Early discharge planning with Community nursing team

- Referral letter and consent form to MAP (Ann Brown) or CAF
- Contact Community Paediatric Consultant via Goldsworth Park
- Discharge planning meeting
- Follow up with attending Neonatal Consultant

Version July 2011
Updated by Dr. T Lawson July 2011
Review July 2014