Special Care Nursery/NICU Admission Criteria

This admission criteria document is developed to guide newborn admissions to the Special Care Nurseries or NICUs.

All infants less than 35 weeks+ 0 days should be admitted, and admission should be considered for all infants less than 2300 grams.

Notes:
1) These criteria are guidelines, and individual clinical decisions are made with full consideration of the individual infant and the resources available to meet the infant's needs.
2) Retro-transfer admission criteria differ from regular admission criteria. See the Levels of Care guidelines for specific retro-transfer and levels criteria.
3) Some neonatal conditions require the care of a paediatrician but not necessarily admission to the nursery.

Admission Criteria for SCN/NICU (Separation from Mother-Baby Dyad)

- Hypoglycaemia if IV therapy required
- Suspected sepsis if receiving IV antibiotics
- Persistent temperature instability
- Suspected cardiac problems
- Neurological abnormalities
- Respiratory distress/Apnea or dusky spells
- Oxygen therapy
- Babies who have received Narcan
- Gavage feeding
- Drug withdrawal symptoms requiring treatment with pharmacotherapy
- Stabilization prior to transfer to a higher level unit
- Newborns requiring a safe environment (CAS)
- Administration of blood products