

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