



Neonatal Follow-Up Clinics Work Group Recommendations May 2015

Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Levels of neonatal follow-up should follow/be paired with NICU levels of care. Routine care of low-risk pre-terms in Level I and IIa care can take place by a primary care team or community paediatrician.

Recommendation 2 – A shared care model should be implemented across neonatal follow-up clinics. If a clinic is unable to provide neonatal follow-up, arrangements must be made by the hospital of birth to provide referral to a clinic within a reachable distance for the family following a shared care model.

Recommendation 3 – All neonatal follow-up clinics should follow a standardized visit schedule that has been developed around anticipated developmental 'touch points', using assessment tools tailored to identify the specific developmental touch point.

Recommendation 4 – The intervention provided by neonatal follow-up clinics should be mainly in the form of parental and family coaching, teaching to be self-advocates, as well as intervention through community linkages, prompt referral to community resources, resource navigation and education.

Recommendation 5 – Data collection should occur at select developmental touch-points, with standardized assessment tools. A committee of experts should be struck, including BORN Ontario and Canadian Neonatal Follow-Up Network (CNFUN), to determine the touch-points at which to collect data, and the assessment tools that should be used.

Recommendation 6 – Create an online forum for ongoing communication, collaboration and education amongst neonatal follow-up clinics and their clinicians. This should include a central contact list for all neonatal follow-up clinics in the province to ensure timely and consistent contact between clinics and to facilitate communication in the shared model of care, as well as an online repository whereby clinicians can share clinical and educational materials as well as conference opportunities with colleagues throughout the province.

Broader System Recommendations

Recommendation 7 – Resources for children in neonatal follow-up need to be established for successful school transition, including follow-up to school age, when warranted.

Recommendation 8 - Consideration be given to the needs of parents and children born less than 37 weeks gestation for enrollment in school to be based on the input of parents with the option of enrollment by corrected/adjusted age (due date), not chronological age (birth date).

Recommendation 9 – Linkages between neonatal follow-up clinics and the Ministry of Education should be established and maintained to facilitate the transition to school for individual high-risk children and to generate knowledge to create programs and interventions to maximize the chances of school success.