

Viral Screening for Admissions to Children's NICU from Home

Guideline

Revised by P Joe 12-21-12

BACKGROUND

To decrease delay in admission from the ED, we have re-examined our policy for admitting babies from home to the NICU. This revised policy has been developed in consultation with the Children's Department of Infectious Disease.

POLICY

- Testing for RSV/influenza should ideally be obtained prior to admission to the NICU for all patients admitted to the NICU from home, or from another location within Children's (e.g. ED, PICU, ward).
- In some cases where testing is not feasible prior to admission, patients can be admitted to the NICU from home or another location within Children's before the results of RSV/influenza testing is available. However, RSV/influenza testing should be sent on these patients immediately after admission,
- If there is low suspicion that the patient has been exposed to RSV/influenza, patients do not need to be treated with contact precautions prior to obtaining the RSV/influenza test results. In this case, it is not necessary to begin droplet or contact precautions, nor is it necessary to assign the patient to a bed spot with a separate sink.
- If there is any suggestion from the clinical history, physical exam, or family history of exposure to or possible infection with a viral respiratory or gastrointestinal illness, the attending neonatologist may choose to admit the patient to the isolation room in Room A and to initiate droplet and contact precautions, if there are no other beds available in the hospital.
- The attending neonatologist may decide not to accept an admission if he/she feels that the patient is too high risk for viral infection and the isolation room is unavailable.