Guidelines for interventions in babies with jaundice
Unconjugated hyperbilirubinaemia only
South African Neonatal Academic Hospital guidelines: 2006

PHOTOTHERAPY

In presence of risk factors use one line lower (the gestation below) until <1000g.
If gestational age is accurate, rather use gestational age (weeks) instead of body weight

Infants > 12 hours old with TSB level below threshold, repeat TSB level as follows:
1- 20 μmol/L below line: repeat TSB in 6hrs or start phototherapy and repeat TSB in 12- 24hrs,
21 - 50 μmol/L below line: repeat TSB in 12 – 24hrs,
>50 μmol/L below line: stop TSB until it is falling and/or until jaundice is clinically resolving

Infants under phototherapy:
Check the TSB 12 – 24 hly but if TSB >30 μmol/L above the line, check TSB 4 – 6hly.
Stop phototherapy:
If TSB > 50 μmol/L below the line. Recheck TSB in 12 – 24hr.

EXCHANGE TRANSFUSION

In presence of sepsis, haemolysis, acidosis, or asphyxia, use one line lower (gestation below) until <1000g.
If gestational age is accurate, rather use gestational age (weeks) than body weight

Note: 1. Infants who present with TSB above threshold should have Exchange done if the TSB is not expected to be below the threshold after 6 hrs of intensive phototherapy.
2. Immediate Exchange is recommended if signs of bilirubin encephalopathy and usually also if TSB is >65 μmol/L above threshold at presentation
3. Exchange if TSB continues to rise >17 μmol/L/hour with intensive phototherapy