



In considering which neonate or child should be prioritized for transfer between health facilities the following must be considered.

PRINCIPLES

1. Preference - patient related criteria take preference over referring facility related criteria, which in turn take preference over receiving facility criteria.
2. Cumulating – the significance of criteria is cumulative so transfers that meet multiple criteria take preference over those with fewer criteria.

ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions must be met prior to transfer:

1. The request for the newborn or child is in line with approved referral/ admission criteria.
2. The transfer has been discussed with and accepted by the receiving facility.
3. The newborn or child is in a stable condition and the transfer will be safe.

CRITERIA

To identify which newborn or child should be transferred first; the following criteria must be considered:

Patient related

1. Airway – worsening airways patency ie newborn or child with stridor or airway obstruction that is not responding to treatment or deteriorating despite treatment
2. Breathing – increasing oxygen requirements and/or worsening respiratory distress despite treatment
3. Circulation
 - a. Poor cardiac output with increasing fluid or inotropic needs
 - b. Poor peripheral circulation with a threatened limb eg infiltrated infusion with compartment syndrome, circumferential lesions, snake bites etc
 - c. Poor central circulation with potential ischaemia to viscera eg gastroschisis
4. Consciousness - Intractable seizures or deteriorating level of consciousness

Referring facility

1. Respiratory support – newborns and children in those hospitals unable to provide interim respiratory support should have preference over those that are able to offer interim respiratory support
2. Distance – newborns and children in facilities closer to the receiving hospital and who will travel shorter distances should move first as this will allow a rapid turnaround time and accommodate more transfers than moving newborns and children from more distal facilities first.

Receiving facility

Babies destined for an ICU bed should have preference over those destined for high care or general wards

N H MCKERROW
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