

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

STANDARDS

- NICU.1** Qualified physician is responsible for managing the neonatal intensive care unit.
- NICU.1.1 The department head is a qualified Pediatrician with experience in neonatology (for level 1 and 2 NICU) and certified neonatologist (for level3 NICU).
- NICU.1.2 The department head takes the overall responsibility for the operation of the unit.
- NICU.2** The neonatal intensive care unit nurse manager is a qualified registered nurse.
- NICU.2.1 The nurse manager is qualified by education, training, and experience in neonatal intensive care.
- NICU.2.2 The nurse manager develops and collaborates with NICU physicians and other departments as needed for developing policies and procedures for the unit (e.g., policies and practices related to infection control).
- NICU.3** Medical and nursing staff working in the neonatal intensive care unit have the appropriate cardiac life support training.
- NICU.3.1 Medical staff working in neonatal intensive care unit are certified in Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP).
- NICU.3.2 Nursing staff working in the neonatal intensive care unit are certified in Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP).
- NICU.4** The neonatal intensive care unit is covered by qualified physicians.
- NICU.4.1 The neonatal intensive care unit is covered twenty four hours a day, seven days a week by qualified neonatal intensive care physicians.
- NICU.4.2 For a Level 3 unit, there is certified neonatologist to cover the unit during the on call hours.
- NICU.5** The neonatal intensive care unit has admission and discharge criteria.
- NICU.5.1 The neonatal intensive care unit identifies its own population based on age and diagnosis related groups.
- NICU.5.2 The admission and discharge criteria are defined in writing.
- NICU.5.3 Criteria for admission are based on physiological parameters.
- NICU.5.4 The criteria are developed collaboratively between relevant staff.
- NICU.6** Patient care in the neonatal intensive care unit is coordinated.
- NICU.6.1 There is a documented evidence of handover between physicians at change of shift.
- NICU.6.2 There is a documented evidence of handover between nurses at change of shift.
- NICU.6.3 There is a documented evidence of handover between neonatal intensive care nurse and unit nurse at the time of transfer to a lower acuity of care.