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- NICU.8.1 A summary of the neonatal intensive care stay is written by the NICU physician and made available at the time of discharge from critical care to a lower acuity level.
  - NICU.8.2 There is documented evidence of handover between the neonatal intensive care physician and the unit physician at the time of transfer to a lower acuity of care.
  - NICU.8.3 When the patient is discharged from the unit, the neonatal intensive care unit physician ensures that the receiving team is well informed about the patient's status and ongoing patient needs.
    - NICU.8.3.1 The patient's plan of care and medications are written in detail by the physician including how to continue them on the floor.
    - NICU.8.3.2 Any special care requirements are documented in the medical record.
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**Standard Intent:**

The admission and discharge process should be coordinated among physicians, nurses, and other health care practitioners to unify these processes in the NICU.

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**NICU.9 Nursing staffing plans are available in the neonatal intensive care unit.**

- NICU.9.1 The nursing staffing plans demonstrate an evidence based nursing to patient ratio.
  - NICU.9.2 The nursing staffing plans are matching the patient volume and patient acuity.
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**Standard Intent:**

Nursing staffing plan should be available in NICU to support nurse's assignments. The hospital must make sure that the workforce in the NICU is consistent with any applicable laws and regulations.

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**NICU.10 Nursing staff in the neonatal intensive care unit receive continuous training with competency assessment.**

- NICU.10.1 Nursing staff in the NICU intensive care unit receive training and education on the following general and NICU intensive care related needs:
  - NICU.10.1.1 Assisting physicians in the different procedures performed in the neonatal intensive care unit including securing central lines access.
  - NICU.10.1.2 Using pulse oximetry.
  - NICU.10.1.3 Recognizing critical ECG changes including arrhythmias.
  - NICU.10.1.4 Assisting physician in placing central lines or arterial lines and /or umbilical arterial/venous lines.
  - NICU.10.1.5 Obtaining arterial blood gas samples and blood drawing from umbilical catheters.



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- NICU.10.1.6 Knowledge of dosage range, side effects and complications of commonly used medications such as surfactant and high alert medications used in neonatal care including vasopressors, narcotics, and controlled medications.
  - NICU.10.1.7 Infection control principles.
  - NICU.10.1.8 Blood transfusion and exchange transfusion.
  - NICU.10.1.9 Sarnat and Thompson Scoring.
  - NICU.10.1.10 Use of the defibrillator.
  - NICU.10.1.11 Care of patients on ventilators.
  - NICU.10.1.12 Care of endo-tracheal tube (ETT).
  - NICU.10.1.13 Care of patients with tracheostomies.
  - NICU.10.1.14 Care of the terminally ill and end of life patients.
  - NICU.10.1.15 Care of patient in incubator.
- NICU.10.2 There is ongoing competency assessment for the nursing staff (e.g., written test, return demonstration).
- NICU.10.3 The competency assessment of the nursing staff is documented.
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**Standard Intent:**

Qualified nursing staff members are hired by the hospital through a process that matches the requirements of the position with the qualifications of the prospective staff member. This process also ensures that nursing staff member's skills are initially and over time consistent with the needs of patients. Ongoing evaluation and competency assessment ensures that training occurs when needed and that the staff member is able to assume new or changed responsibilities. Training and competency assessment should be undertaken for the procedures mentioned in substandard NICU 10.1.1 through NICU.10.1.15.

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**NICU.11 The neonatal intensive care unit has adequate equipment, supplies, and diagnostic services.**

NICU.11.1 There are isolation rooms with at least one negative pressure room.

NICU.11.2 The following equipment are available:

- NICU.11.2.1 Ventilators.
- NICU.11.2.2 Suction apparatus.
- NICU.11.2.3 Airway sets.
- NICU.11.2.4 Crash cart that includes defibrillator, all emergency supplies, and medications as appropriate to neonates.
- NICU.11.2.5 Infant resuscitator.
- NICU.11.2.6 Incubators.
- NICU.11.2.7 Portable incubator with portable ventilator.