

TIME-CRITICAL NEUROSURGICAL TRANSFER CHECKLIST

Children requiring immediate life-saving care may present to hospitals without neurosurgical services. However they will require urgent stabilisation and transfer to a neurosurgical centre. This checklist will assist you undertake the time-critical transfer in a safe and timely manner.

AIRWAY

- ETT secure(correct size & length/avoid nasal)
- Position of gastric tube and tracheal tube confirmed (ETT tip at T2 on CXR ideal for transfer)
- Appropriate HME filter for patient size
- C-Spine protection (if necessary)**
- Orogastric tube on free drainage

BREATHING

- Avoid hypoxia - SpO₂ >98%
- Attach ETCO₂ monitoring (aim 4.5-5.5kPa)
- Standard ventilator settings : PEEP 4/ Rate 15-30/ Ti 0.7/PIP to move chest

CIRCULATION

- Minimum 2 points of IV access for transfer
-discuss inotrope options with NECTAR Consultant
-consider IO access – no transfer delay for CVC
- Maintain age appropriate systolic BP
- Regular BP - no transfer delay for arterial line
- Consider obtaining a blood group/cross match sample to accompany patient (fully labelled)

DISABILITY AND EXPOSURE

- Obtain CT Head <30min
- Adequate sedation and muscle relaxants
-see [NECTAR Infusions Guide](#)
- 15min pupillary monitoring**
- C-Spine protection (if necessary)
- Position head tilt 20-30°
- Identify and treat seizures
- Maintain normal blood glucose
- Aim plasma Sodium>140mmol/L
- Intracranial hypertensive crisis – Bradycardia/hypertension/pupillary dilatation**
 - aim pCO₂/EtCO₂ 4-5kPa
 - 2.7-3% Saline 3ml/kg over 15min
 - consider Mannitol 0.25-0.5g/kg
 - sedate adequately(bolus pre-suction)
 - keep moving – don't delay
- Maintain normothermia - regular/core temperature monitoring
- Secondary survey (if trauma)

PREPARATION, PACKAGING & TRANSFER

- Request urgent 999 Ambulance transfer(Category RED1 or RED2)
- Emergency airway & breathing equipment portable suction/fluids/drugs/adequate O₂
- Ensure patient & equipment is adequately secured to ambulance trolley
- Ensure smooth journey due to effects on haemodynamics and ICP
- Travel safe –seatbelt on at all times
- Transfer letter with photocopy of relevant notes, results, drugs charts, anaesthetic charts etc
- PACS/copy of all imaging
- Document and highlight any Safeguarding issues
- Keep parents up to date
- Phone receiving team with ETA and inform them if there are any changes in the patient's condition or you are concerned that the patient is deteriorating further**

IF AT ANY POINT YOU WANT FURTHER ADVICE CALL NECTAR ON 01912826699