

Neonatal ODN initiatives and innovations

Network

Northern Neonatal Network (NNN)



Initiative/Innovation

Stabilisation Training Workshops

Background

The NNN recognised in its early days that there was a need for outreach training for staff based at our Level 1 SCUs focussing on the perinatal/pre transfer period of babies who required moving to a NICU for ongoing higher levels of care. It recognised that SCU staff often deal infrequently with such sick and premature babies and aims to give them additional knowledge, practical skills and confidence when faced with such cases.

Summary of output

The one-day workshop we have developed is based around a short series of core lectures, practical workshops (incorporating simulation of key procedures and other aspects of stabilisation) including practical mask ventilation improvement techniques and small group teaching. This is followed in the afternoon by exposure to simulation of scenarios likely to be encountered in the stabilisation of this group of infants. There is an emphasis on an interactive, hands on approach utilising existing teams and their current equipment and practice/care to enhance the scenarios and make them as realistic as possible. We allow a maximum of 16 delegates per course, usually made up of nurses and medics of all grades and roles and we encourage this wherever possible. It is run to allow every Unit to be covered at least once per year, combining two nearby Units to maximise attendance.

Costs/funding required

Hosted locally by Units/Trusts who source a suitable venue and catering. The Network covers any Faculty expenses and does not charge for the training so it is “free at the point of delivery” to those attending.

Planned developments/potential for use elsewhere

The NNN continues to revise and develop the course in response to the feedback we receive from delegates attending the training. It consistently evaluates as our most popular and valued Network-facilitated and run course and is extremely well received by our SCU staff.

We anticipate that this model of course and delivery has the potential to be adopted and replicated in other Neonatal ODNs using the same approach and broad content adapted for local needs.

Network Contact(s) for more information

Dr Richard Hearn (Consultant Neonatologist/Course Faculty Lead) – 0191 282 9905
Martyn Boyd (Network Manager) – 0191 541 0139