



Joint statement PICS ATG and NTG March 30th 2020

We are facing a difficult and uncertain time in regards to critical care provision. Transport will be a vital part in the response to ensure we can get patients to the correct intensive care units.

Whilst neonatal transfers might be reduced in number, there will be an increased need in overall transport capacity to increase availability of critical care beds for patients of all ages. This may involve converting some PICU beds to adult ICU beds and secondary transfers of PICC patients.

We are working with The Children's Air Ambulance and have agreed that the priority for this service will be paediatric patients. Neonatal transport teams can continue to task TCAA but paediatric teams will take priority.

In view of the increased burden of work on existing adult and paediatric transport teams, we are asking neonatal transport teams to consider their ability to carry out paediatric transfers in conjunction with local paediatric critical care services. Each region may need a different model depending on capacity and service provision.

The GMC and NMC have issued guidance about working out of your usual scope of care in this unprecedented situation.

Please:

1. Liaise with your regional paediatric transport team to consider transferring paediatric patients e.g. up to pre-school age.
2. Review all equipment to see if capable of using out of neonatal age/weight range.
3. Ensure all equipment is functional and ready to be used.
4. Maintain ongoing staff competencies and capabilities in neonatal transport.
5. Use resources on regional PCC ODN websites for guidelines, drug charts, and educational materials.
6. Practice and simulate moving bigger patients.

Kind regards,

Dr Cath Harrison
NTG Chair

Dr Michael Griksaitis
PICS ATG Chair