



CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Neuroimaging for the Preterm Infant

Scope (Staff):	Nursing and Medical Staff
Scope (Area):	NICU KEMH, NICU PCH, NETS WA

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)

Cranial Ultrasound

Infants born at < 33/52 gestation and/or < 1501 grams have routine cranial ultrasound scans at:

- Day 1
- Day 7
- Day 28
- A further head scan may be required prior to discharge for extremely preterm infants or to follow up abnormalities such as evolving hydrocephalus.


MRI Brain:

An MRI should be performed at term equivalent (>38 weeks) for all babies born at <28 weeks, with parental consent.

Discharge or Transfer planning:

- Ideally MRI scans should be performed as inpatients.
- Ensure any scans that have been carried out are reviewed prior to discharge or transfer.
- Discuss with consultant whether to bring scan forward if discharge or transfer is approaching
- Many back transfer hospitals are able to conduct head ultrasounds, please liaise with discharge coordinators to ensure this has been arranged.
- Metropolitan and country infants are to have an outpatient appointment made to coincide with follow-up and/or other appointments to obtain results of the MRI scan.
- Ensure parents are aware of all results/appointments.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

File Path:			
Document Owner:	Neonatology		
Reviewer / Team:	Neonatal Coordinating Group		
Date First Issued:	December 2015	Last Reviewed:	5 th November 2019
Amendment Dates:		Next Review Date:	26 November 2022
Approved by:	Neonatal Coordinating Group	Date:	26 November 2019
Endorsed by:	Neonatal Coordinating Group	Date:	26 November 2019
Standards Applicable:	NSQHS Standards: 		
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