

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

CENTRE FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

QUALITY STANDARDS PROGRAMME

Quality standard topic: Specialist neonatal care

Output: Quality standard advice to the Secretary of State for Health

Scope

The quality standard addresses care provided for babies in need of specialist neonatal services (neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive or surgical care), including transfer services.

Key development sources

Department of Health (DH) (2009) [Toolkit for high quality neonatal services](http://www.dh.gov.uk). Available from www.dh.gov.uk

British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM) (2010) [Standards for hospitals providing neonatal intensive and high dependency care](http://www.bapm.org). Available from www.bapm.org

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) (2008) [Standards for maternity care: report of a working party](http://www.rcog.org.uk). Available from www.rcog.org.uk

Overview of statements

The Topic Expert Group (TEG) decided on ten areas of care that the quality standard should focus on using the key development sources listed above. Guidance recommendations were collated based on these ten areas of care. The TEG members then voted for the recommendations that they thought should be included in the draft quality standard. A total of 15 draft quality statements, each with associated quality measures, were presented for consultation and field testing. Following consultation and field testing feedback, the TEG prioritised nine statements for inclusion into the final quality standard.

Please note that in the absence of NICE guidance or NHS Evidence accredited sources for this topic, the development processes outlined in the Quality Standards Programme interim process guide (available from www.nice.org.uk) could not be followed.

Quality measures

The quality measures accompanying the quality standard aim to improve the structure, process and health outcomes of specialist neonatal care. They are not a new set of targets or mandated indicators for performance management.

Quality measures are high-level quality indicators. They may be supplemented with indicators developed by the NHS Information Centre through their [Indicators for Quality Improvement Programme](#) which can be found at www.ic.nhs.uk. For topics where these quality indicators do not exist, the quality measures should form the basis for audit criteria developed and used locally to improve the quality of health care.

At present there are limited health outcome measures that can be used as quality measures. Therefore, the focus of the quality measures is on improving the processes of care that are considered to be linked to health outcomes.

All process measures are specified in the form of a numerator and a denominator which define a proportion (numerator/denominator). It is assumed that the numerator is a subset of the denominator population.

For example, if the quality measure is the proportion of babies born at less than 33 weeks of gestation who receive specialist neonatal care who are breastfed when discharged from hospital, then:

Numerator – the number of babies breastfed when discharged from hospital.

Denominator – the number of babies born at less than 33 weeks of gestation receiving specialist neonatal care and discharged from hospital.

Diversity, equality and language

Good communication between health and social care professionals and the parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care is essential. Treatment and care, and the information given about it, should be culturally appropriate. It should also be accessible to people with additional needs such as physical, sensory or learning disabilities, and to people who do not speak or read English. Parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care should have access to an interpreter or advocate if needed.

Quality standard for specialist neonatal care

The quality standard for specialist neonatal care requires that the physical, psychological and social needs of babies and their families are at the heart of all care given.

No.	Quality statements
1	In-utero and postnatal transfers for neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive and surgical care follow perinatal network guidelines and care pathways that are integrated with other maternity and newborn network guidelines and pathways.
2	Networks, commissioners and providers of specialist neonatal care undertake an annual needs assessment and ensure each network has adequate capacity.
3	Specialist neonatal services have a sufficient, skilled and competent multidisciplinary workforce.
4	Neonatal transfer services provide babies with safe and efficient transfers to and from specialist neonatal care.
5	Parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care are encouraged and supported to be involved in planning and providing care for their baby, and regular communication with clinical staff occurs throughout the care pathway.
6	Mothers of babies receiving specialist neonatal care are supported to start and continue breastfeeding, including being supported to express milk.
7	Babies receiving specialist neonatal care have their health and social care plans coordinated to help ensure a safe and effective transition from hospital to community care.
8	Providers of specialist neonatal services maintain accurate and complete data, and actively participate in national clinical audits and applicable research programmes.
9	Babies receiving specialist neonatal care have their health outcomes monitored.

Quality Statement 1

<p>Quality statement</p>	<p>In-utero and postnatal transfers for neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive and surgical care follow perinatal network guidelines and care pathways that are integrated with other maternity and newborn network guidelines and pathways.</p>
<p>Quality measure</p>	<p>Structure:</p> <p>a) Evidence of perinatal network guidelines and care pathways for in-utero and postnatal transfers for neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive and surgical care.</p> <p>b) Evidence that perinatal network guidelines and care pathways for in-utero and postnatal transfers for neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive and surgical care, are integrated with other maternity and newborn network guidelines and pathways.</p> <p>c) Evidence of network arrangements to ensure that when a baby is admitted to specialist neonatal care, the mother and any multiple birth siblings can be accommodated in the same hospital during their respective admissions.</p> <p>Process:</p> <p>a) Proportion of babies born at less than 28 weeks of gestation who receive intensive care in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) within the network.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies receiving intensive care in a NICU within the network.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born at less than 28 weeks of gestation within the network.</p> <p>b) Proportion of babies with antenatally diagnosed fetal malformations requiring early surgery who are delivered at a designated network surgical centre.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies delivered at a designated network surgical centre.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born within the network with antenatally diagnosed fetal malformations requiring early surgery.</p> <p>c) Proportion of babies who are transferred back to their local neonatal unit within 24 hours of request for repatriation.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies transferred within 24 hours of repatriation request.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies transferred back to their local neonatal unit.</p> <p>d) Proportion of babies who require neonatal surgery who receive it at a designated network surgical centre.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies undergoing surgery at a designated network surgical centre.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born within the network who</p>

	<p>require neonatal surgery.</p> <p>e) For singleton births: proportion of mothers who still require inpatient care when their baby is transferred to specialist neonatal care, who are transferred to the same hospital as their baby.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of mothers transferred to the same hospital as their baby.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of mothers who still require inpatient care when their baby is transferred to specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>f) For multiple births: proportion of babies transferred to specialist neonatal care whose mother and/or multiple birth siblings are transferred to the same hospital if still requiring inpatient care.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies whose mother and/or multiple birth siblings are transferred to the same hospital.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies from multiple births transferred to specialist neonatal care whose mother and/or multiple birth siblings still require inpatient care.</p>
Description of what the quality statement means for each audience	<p>Service providers ensure perinatal network guidelines and care pathways for transfers for neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive and surgical care are implemented and integrated with other maternity and neonatal guidelines and pathways. Ensure regular monitoring of operation and effectiveness.</p> <p>Healthcare professionals ensure perinatal network guidelines and care pathways are followed when transferring babies for neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive and surgical care, and invoke a report or alert mechanism where this is not possible.</p> <p>Commissioners and networks ensure all eligible patients within their health economy are covered by perinatal network guidelines and care pathways for transfer for special, high-dependency, intensive and surgical care.</p> <p>Parents of babies transferred to neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive or surgical care can expect the transfer to be in line with network guidelines and care pathways. These guidelines and care pathways describe specific procedures about safely transferring babies to other hospitals.</p>
Definition	<p>The DH toolkit (2009) defines a network as 'linked groups of health professionals and organisations from primary, secondary and tertiary care, working in a coordinated manner, unconstrained by existing professional and health board boundaries, to ensure equitable provision of high-quality, clinically effective services.'</p> <p>Guidance on the content of guidelines and pathways can be found within the DH toolkit (2009) under Principles 4 and 7.</p>
Data source	<p>Structure: Local and network data collection.</p> <p>Process: Local and network data collection.</p>

Quality Statement 2

<p>Quality statement</p>	<p>Networks, commissioners and providers of specialist neonatal care undertake an annual needs assessment and ensure each network has adequate capacity.</p>
<p>Quality measure</p>	<p>Structure: Evidence of an annual needs assessment including production of an annual report covering, as a minimum, specialist neonatal activity for the network’s population, monitoring of quality metrics and how concerns are being addressed.</p> <p>Process:</p> <p>a) Proportion of mothers whose babies required specialist neonatal care and who were booked to deliver in the network who received all their perinatal care within the network area (standard 95% as per DH toolkit [2009]).</p> <p>Numerator – the number of mothers receiving all their perinatal care within the network area.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of mothers whose babies required specialist neonatal care and who were booked to deliver in the network area.</p> <p>b) Proportion of babies who receive specialist neonatal care in the network who are from outside the network area.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies from outside the network area.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies receiving specialist neonatal care in the network.</p> <p>c) Bed occupancy for each level of care (standard 80% as specified in DH toolkit [2009]).</p>
<p>Description of what the quality statement means for each audience</p>	<p>Service providers cooperate with networks and commissioners to carry out an annual specialist neonatal care needs assessment. If service provision levels are found to be inadequate, they ensure action is taken in conjunction with commissioners.</p> <p>Healthcare professionals assist with specialist neonatal care needs assessments by providing accurate and validated data.</p> <p>Commissioners and networks ensure that, in conjunction with service providers, an annual specialist neonatal care needs assessment is undertaken. In addition, they clearly define expected levels of service provision.</p> <p>Parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care can expect that the needs of their baby will be met by services provided in their area.</p>
<p>Definition</p>	<p>Quality metrics are defined further in the DH toolkit (2009) section 5.</p>

Data source	<p>Structure: Local and network data collection.</p> <p>Process a): Local and network data collection.</p> <p>Process b): Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme collects data on whether all babies who access neonatal services are treated following their own neonatal network clinical pathway. Available from www.rcpch.ac.uk</p> <p>Process c): Local and network data collection.</p>
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Quality Statement 3

<p>Quality statement</p>	<p>Specialist neonatal services have a sufficient, skilled and competent multidisciplinary workforce.</p>
<p>Quality measure</p>	<p>Structure:</p> <p>a) Evidence of local arrangements to ensure specialist neonatal staff are compliant with competency levels as described by the DH toolkit (2009).</p> <p>b) Evidence of local arrangements to provide a multidisciplinary service, trained and competent in the care of neonates, that has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specialist neonatal or paediatric dietitians • specialist neonatal occupational therapists • specialist neonatal physiotherapists • specialist neonatal speech and language therapists. <p>Process: Proportion of completed specialist neonatal care shifts with the correct nursing and medical staffing levels as specified in the DH toolkit (2009).</p> <p>Numerator – the number of shifts with the correct nursing and medical staffing levels as specified in the DH toolkit (2009).</p> <p>Denominator – the number of completed specialist neonatal care shifts.</p>
<p>Description of what the quality statement means for each audience</p>	<p>Service providers ensure specialist neonatal services are staffed in accordance with the DH toolkit (2009), and that training and competencies are regularly reviewed.</p> <p>Healthcare professionals ensure they are skilled and competent for their roles and responsibilities by accessing appropriate training.</p> <p>Commissioners ensure that specialist neonatal services assess and monitor the staffing levels, composition and competency of their workforce. In addition, they ensure that appropriate education programmes are commissioned.</p> <p>Parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care can expect care to be given by an appropriate number of fully trained healthcare professionals.</p>
<p>Definition</p>	<p>Definition of a skilled and competent workforce can be found in DH toolkit (2009) Principle 2.</p> <p>The process measure 'proportion of completed shifts with the correct nursing and medical staffing levels' was considered by the TEG as an appropriate measure of staffing. It is noted that this is not a mandatory data collection requirement and that collection of this data is at the discretion of local units.</p>
<p>Data source</p>	<p>Structure: Local data collection.</p> <p>Process: Local data collection.</p>

Quality Statement 4

Quality statement	Neonatal transfer services provide babies with safe and efficient transfers to and from specialist neonatal care.
Quality measure	<p>Structure: Evidence of network arrangements to provide a 24-hour, 7 days a week neonatal transport service with a single telephone contact.</p> <p>Process:</p> <p>a) Proportion of transfer teams responding to time-critical emergencies that depart from the transport base within 1 hour from the start of the referring call.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of transfer teams departing from the transport base within 1 hour from the start of the referring call.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of emergency transfers requests deemed time-critical.</p> <p>b) Proportion of newborn babies who receive specialist neonatal care who have an admission temperature of less than 36°C.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of newborn babies with an admission temperature of less than 36°C.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of newborn babies receiving specialist neonatal care.</p>
Description of what the quality statement means for each audience	<p>Service providers ensure a safe and efficient service for babies transferred to and from specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>Healthcare professionals ensure babies receive a safe and efficient transfer to and from specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>Commissioners and networks ensure transfer services are contracted and monitored to provide appropriate levels of service provision.</p> <p>Parents of babies who need to be transferred to or from specialist neonatal services can expect this to be done safely and efficiently.</p>
Definition	<p>The DH toolkit (2009) states 'a transfer service is concerned with organising and implementing the transfer of babies and/or mothers from within a defined geographical area (network). It encompasses both users and providers, and transfers may be ex-utero or in-utero.'</p> <p>Further description of a high quality transfer service can be found in Principle 4 of the DH toolkit (2009).</p>
Data source	<p>Structure: Network data collection.</p> <p>Process a) and b): Network data collection.</p>

Quality Statement 5

Quality statement	<p>Parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care are encouraged and supported to be involved in planning and providing care for their baby, and regular communication with clinical staff occurs throughout the care pathway.</p>
Quality measure	<p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Evidence of local arrangements to involve parents in decision-making processes. b) Evidence of local audit demonstrating active involvement of parents in providing care for their baby. c) Evidence of regular surveys on parent experience. d) Evidence of local arrangements to provide bereavement services. e) Evidence of local arrangements to provide palliative care. <p>Process:</p> <p>Parents' experience is monitored through satisfaction surveys and the evidence used to inform learning and change for improvement.</p>
Description of what the quality statement means for each audience	<p>Service providers ensure a policy is in place to maintain accurate records of communication with parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care and that parents are involved in planning and providing care. Ensure plans are in place to seek regular parental views and experience.</p> <p>Healthcare professionals communicate regularly with parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care and ensure parents are involved in decision-making and their baby's care.</p> <p>Commissioners ensure services use parental feedback on involvement in decision-making and planning and provision of care to inform service improvement of specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>Parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care can expect to be encouraged and supported to be actively involved in planning and providing care, joint decision-making and to be in regular contact with their healthcare team.</p>
Definition	<p>Support provided will depend on the parents needs and may include physical, psychological or social support.</p>
Data source	<p>Structure a), b), d) and e): Local data collection.</p> <p>Structure c): Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme denominator survey Question 8: In the last 12 months has the unit carried out a parent satisfaction survey? Available from www.rcpch.ac.uk</p> <p>Process: A Picker Institute parent survey, developed in conjunction with Bliss, is in development and will contain questions specifically aimed at assessing parent involvement in care and decision-making.</p>

Quality Statement 6

<p>Quality statement</p>	<p>Mothers of babies receiving specialist neonatal care are supported to start and continue breastfeeding, including being supported to express milk.</p>
<p>Quality measure</p>	<p>Structure: Evidence of a written local policy on breastfeeding and expressing milk for babies receiving specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <p>a) Proportion of babies born at less than 33 weeks of gestation who receive specialist neonatal care who are breastfed when discharged from hospital. Numerator – the number of babies breastfed when discharged from hospital. Denominator – the number of babies born at less than 33 weeks of gestation receiving specialist neonatal care and discharged from hospital.</p> <p>b) Proportion of babies born at less than 33 weeks of gestation who remain in hospital and still receive their mother’s breast milk at 6 weeks. Numerator – the number of babies receiving their mother’s breast milk at 6 weeks. Denominator – the number of babies born at less than 33 weeks of gestation, receiving specialist neonatal care and remaining in hospital at 6 weeks.</p>
<p>Description of what the quality statement means for each audience</p>	<p>Service providers ensure implementation of a local policy on breastfeeding and expressing milk for babies in specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>Healthcare professionals ensure all mothers of babies receiving specialist neonatal care are supported to start and continue breastfeeding, including support to express milk.</p> <p>Commissioners ensure services audit their compliance against agreed standards on supporting mothers to start and continue breastfeeding, including support to express milk.</p> <p>Mothers of babies receiving specialist neonatal care can expect to be offered support to start and continue to breastfeed, including support to express milk.</p>
<p>Data source</p>	<p>Structure: Local data collection.</p> <p>Outcome a): Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme produce figures on feeding status at discharge for babies born at less than 33 weeks of gestation. Available from www.rcpch.ac.uk</p> <p>Outcome b): Local data collection.</p>

Quality Statement 7

<p>Quality statement</p>	<p>Babies receiving specialist neonatal care have their health and social care plans coordinated to help ensure a safe and effective transition from hospital to community care.</p>
<p>Quality measure</p>	<p>Structure:</p> <p>a) Evidence of provision of a neonatal outreach service.</p> <p>b) Evidence of multiagency discharge planning with input from community neonatal outreach services.</p> <p>Process: Proportion of babies discharged from specialist neonatal care who receive an outreach service follow-up.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies receiving outreach service follow-up.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies discharged from specialist neonatal care requiring an outreach service follow-up.</p>
<p>Description of what the quality statement means for each audience</p>	<p>Service providers ensure that agreements are in place for coordinating the care plans of babies receiving specialist neonatal care between relevant agencies.</p> <p>Health and social care professionals ensure the care plans of babies receiving specialist neonatal care are coordinated with all relevant agencies.</p> <p>Commissioners and networks ensure services are commissioned according to agreed levels of care across the specialist neonatal care pathway to enable safe and effective transition from hospital to community care.</p> <p>Parents of babies discharged from specialist neonatal care can expect to receive support from health or social care professionals working in the community if their baby requires it. They can also expect that their baby’s care plan will be coordinated between relevant teams to help ensure a safe and effective transition from hospital to home.</p>
<p>Data source</p>	<p>Structure a) and b): Local and network data collection.</p> <p>Process: Local and network data collection.</p>

Quality Statement 8

Quality statement	Providers of specialist neonatal services maintain accurate and complete data, and actively participate in national clinical audits and applicable research programmes.
Quality measure	<p>Structure:</p> <p>a) Evidence of a documented data validation process to ensure data completeness and accuracy.</p> <p>b) Evidence of participation in national clinical audits and benchmarking.</p> <p>c) Evidence of participation in applicable research studies.</p> <p>Process:</p> <p>a) Complete and accurate data collected for the National Neonatal Audit Programme.</p> <p>b) Complete and accurate data collected for the BAPM dataset.</p> <p>c) Proportion of babies receiving specialist neonatal care whose parents are invited to participate in applicable research studies.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies whose parents are invited to participate in applicable research studies.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies receiving specialist neonatal care.</p>
Description of what the quality statement means for each audience	<p>Service providers ensure accuracy and completeness of specialist neonatal data collection systems and participate in national clinical audits and applicable research programmes.</p> <p>Healthcare professionals ensure accurate record keeping and data collection.</p> <p>Commissioners ensure service providers participate in agreed national clinical audits and applicable research programmes.</p> <p>Parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care can expect complete and accurate information to be kept about their baby's care and for it to be used to improve care. They can also expect to be invited to participate in applicable research programmes.</p>
Data source	<p>Structure a): Local and network data collection.</p> <p>Structure b): Participation in Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme.</p> <p>Structure c): National Institute for Health Research Accrual System. Available from www.nihr.ac.uk</p> <p>Process a): Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme provides quarterly data completeness and accuracy reports to participating sites. Available from www.rcpch.ac.uk</p> <p>Process b): Data completeness and accuracy figures of BAPM dataset submissions.</p>

	Process c): Local and network data collection.
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Quality Statement 9

<p>Quality statement</p>	<p>Babies receiving specialist neonatal care have their health outcomes monitored.</p>
<p>Quality measure</p>	<p>Structure: Evidence of processes to enable collection of health outcome data within the network for babies who receive specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>Process:</p> <p>a) Proportion of babies born at less than 30 weeks of gestation who received specialist neonatal care who have a 2-year outcome form completed.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies with a completed 2-year outcome form.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born at less than 30 weeks of gestation receiving specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>b) Proportion of babies born at 30 weeks of gestation or more who received specialist neonatal care who have a 2-year outcome form completed.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies with a completed 2-year outcome form.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born at 30 weeks of gestation or more receiving specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>c) Proportion of babies born at less than 32 weeks of gestation and/or with a birth weight less than 1501 g who receive specialist neonatal care and undergo retinopathy screening prior to discharge from hospital.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies undergoing retinopathy screening prior to discharge from hospital.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born at less than 32 weeks of gestation and/or with a birth weight less than 1501 g, receiving specialist neonatal care and discharged from hospital.</p> <p>d) Proportion of babies born at less than 32 weeks of gestation and/or with a birth weight less than 1501 g who receive specialist neonatal care who require laser surgery.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies requiring laser surgery.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born at less than 32 weeks of gestation and/or with a birth weight less than 1501 g receiving specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>e) Proportion of babies who received specialist neonatal care who have had a culture-positive infection of blood or cerebrospinal fluid prior to discharge from hospital.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies who have had a culture-positive infection of blood or cerebrospinal fluid prior to discharge from hospital.</p>

	<p>Denominator – the number of babies receiving specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>f) Proportion of babies who have had neonatal encephalopathy.</p> <p>Numerator and denominator under development for the National Neonatal Audit Programme.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <p>a) Proportion of babies born at less than 30 weeks of gestation who receive specialist neonatal care who have no functional impairment at 2 years when corrected for gestational age.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies with no functional impairment at 2 years when corrected for gestational age.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born at less than 30 weeks of gestation receiving specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>b) Proportion of babies born at 30 weeks of gestation or more who receive specialist neonatal care who have no functional impairment at 2 years when corrected for gestational age.</p> <p>Numerator – the number of babies with no functional impairment at 2 years when corrected for gestational age.</p> <p>Denominator – the number of babies born at 30 weeks of gestation or more receiving specialist neonatal care.</p> <p>c) 2-year survival rates within and compared with other networks.</p>
<p>Description of what the quality statement means for each audience</p>	<p>Service providers ensure the health outcomes of all babies receiving specialist neonatal care are monitored.</p> <p>Healthcare professionals ensure accurate and complete baseline data collection through pregnancy, childbirth and the perinatal period.</p> <p>Commissioners and networks ensure specialist neonatal care health outcomes are monitored and used to inform service improvement.</p> <p>Parents of babies receiving specialist neonatal care can expect their baby’s health will continue to be assessed after discharge from hospital.</p>

<p>Data source</p>	<p>Structure: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme collects data on whether health outcomes are collected.</p> <p>Process: a) and b): Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme collects data on whether 2-year outcomes are collected.</p> <p>Process c): Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme collects data on retinopathy screening prior to discharge from hospital for babies born at less than 32 weeks or gestation and/or with a birth weight less than 1501 g.</p> <p>Process d): Local and network data collection.</p> <p>Process e): Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme will collect data on babies who have had a culture-positive infection of blood or cerebrospinal fluid prior to discharge.</p> <p>Process f): Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme will collect data on neonatal encephalopathy.</p> <p>Outcomes a), b) and c): Network data collection.</p> <p>Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health National Neonatal Audit Programme is available from www.rcpch.ac.uk</p>
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