

## PROFILE OF IN-UTERO TRANSFERS IN YORKSHIRE & HUMBER - EMBRACE TRANSPORT SERVICE

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**Background and aims:** Embrace, combined paediatric and neonatal transport service for Yorkshire and Humber, facilitates in-utero transfers for a region with 75,000births/year. Our aim was to evaluate in utero transfer requests - indications for transfer, time spent locating cot/ bed, fibronectin use and outcomes.

**Methods:** Prospective audit of in-utero requests during 1/10/2010 - 7/01/2011. Data obtained via audit proforma and phone calls to maternity units.

**Results:** 86 transfers were facilitated out of 120 in-utero requests. The main reasons for requests were lack of neonatal cots 54% (65/120), maternal conditions requiring specialist care 2.5% (3/120), preterm gestation 24% (29/120) and impending preterm labour 7.5% (9/120).

13/120 of total requests - out of region cot located.

34 did not result in transfer despite cot/bed being located. The reasons were:

- Mother deteriorated/ went into labour 41%
- Unit unwilling to accept out of region cot 12%
- Local NNU arranged cot 15%
- Referring hospital arranged transfer 6%
- Changed decision re transfer need 20.7%

Tertiary perinatal centres accepted 41% transfers.

Mean time facilitating transfers - 82 minutes.

Mean number of phone calls - 6.3.

On average to organise 1 successful IUT, 2.1 maternity units and 3.4 neonatal units contacted.

50% of mothers delivered within 24 hrs of transfer.

13.3 % referrals used fibronectin.

**Conclusion:** IUT are a significant part of Embrace's workload. Increased use of fibronectin in impending deliveries would enhance appropriateness of transfers.