

Conclusions: 1 Fr lines generated far greater pressures than 2Fr lines to achieve the same flow rate, as predicted from Poiseuille's Law - $\text{Flow} \propto (\text{Pressure} \times \text{Radius}^4) / (\text{Viscosity} \times \text{Length})$.

Reduction in length allowed higher flow rates before pressure limits were reached. Increasing pressure limits above 150mmHg, or reducing line length are the only options available to allow use of these lines at higher flow rates.

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IMPACT OF BABIES BORN TO SUBSTANCE MISUSING MOTHERS ON A REGIONAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

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Background: The incidence of maternal drug misuse is increasing. A screening study found that 16% of pregnant women in the UK have misused drugs or illicit substances.¹ The babies born to substance misusing mothers have additional impact on the maternity and neonatal services.

Aim: To review the impact of babies born to substance misusing mothers (SMM).

Methods: A retrospective audit of the care provided to infants born to SMM at a regional maternity hospital in UK over 12 months (01/04/09-31/03/10).

Results: In the last 12 months, 38 babies born to SMM were admitted to the transitional care and 3 were admitted to the neonatal unit because of their prematurity. 31 mothers were on the methadone programme. Their median gestation age was 38 weeks with a median birth weight of 2770 grams. All babies were observed using the modified Finnegan score. 8/41 (19%) needed treatment with morphine. The overall median length of stay (LOS) was 9 days. In those infants who did not need treatment, median LOS was 7.5 days. 16/41 (39%) had safeguarding issues with 12 infants placed in foster care and 3 infants placed in a mother and baby residential unit.

Conclusion: Babies born to SMM take up significant time, input and resources from the neonatal and social services. They have significantly longer LOS even when they do not need treatment. In view

of the increasing prevalence of SMM, this needs to be taken into consideration when allocating resources.

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CALCULATING THE COST OF SHORT STAY REFERRALS TO A NEONATAL UNIT

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Background: Additional special care workload includes provision of short stay intervention and management not exceeding 6 hours to any baby born in our hospital. This work does not attract additional funding and is not factored into current staffing levels in our unit.

Objectives: To assess extra cost and staffing time per week for this additional work load.

Methods: Retrospective review of short stay referrals (August - September 2008). assessing reason for referral, duration of stay and background nursing staff ratio using the hospital computer system and admission register.

Results: 89 babies fulfilled the short stay criteria. Median duration of stay was 3628 minutes (7.5 hours/week). The times of referral peaked between 12:00 and 24:00h. Common reasons were partial septic screen in 34%, administration of antibiotics in 20%, insertion of peripheral venous line in 9%. The average duration of stay was 30 minutes (IQR 20 - 35). The background nursing staff to baby ratios during the 2 months were 1:3-1:3.5.

Conclusions: The background nursing ratio during the 2 months fell below the BAPM standard for special care. Short stay referrals added an additional burden of 7.5 hours/week of nursing time equating to a cost of £78-£150. Interesting observations were that the peak times were predictable. We conclude there is definite role for a dedicated nurse for short stay babies or enhanced nurse practitioners who could undertake doctor/nurse roles, balance the staff to baby ratio and ultimately lead to seamless care of these babies.