

## **The Cooling Pause**

### **Aim**

The Cooling Pause is a comprehensive appraisal of a patient's progress that is undertaken during therapeutic hypothermia by senior medical staff. This process will:

- enable discussion between senior medical staff that may inform immediate or later management plans
- facilitate ongoing high quality communication with parents
- facilitate communication with other professionals
- provide documentation to inform both the risk review process and audit

### **Process**

The review will occur during cooling between 24-72 hours, and ideally around 48 hours of age.

It will involve a discussion between two or more consultants, one of whom is currently responsible for the management of the patient. Other members of the clinical team will be encouraged to input.

The need for a Cooling Pause during the weekend or on public holidays will be identified in advance and arrangements made for a second consultant to be available to participate either by telephone or if appropriate in person.

### **Format of pause**

Review and document:

- Which consultants are undertaking pause and the date and time.
- Antenatal/intrapartum details including any evidence of fetal hypoxia- acute, chronic, prelabour or unknown
- Severity of asphyxia at birth including Apgar score at 10m; time to HR>100; time to first gasp; extent of resus required; lowest cord/initial pH and BE; time for lactate to normalise
- Progression of HIE grade/neurological examination from admission until current timepoint, noting concurrent sedative/anticonvulsant therapy
- Progression of CFM/EEG from admission to current timepoint
- Evidence of acute brain injury on USS
- Evidence of acute brain injury on MRI or other imaging

- Details and evidence of other organ involvement
- Summary of discussion with parents to date and record of their expectations
- The cooling governance pathway- have all actions been undertaken to date?

Decide and document:

- Is any further information or are other investigations required?
- Is the current treatment plan appropriate?
- Do the parents require further information or discussion?

### **Main Author**

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### **Other Professionals Consulted**

All Consultants

### **Guideline Title**

SCRH\_Cooling Pause Guideline\_Neonates

### **Implementation / Review Dates**

Implementation date – 14/09/13      Next Review – 1/09/16