

PERS Time Critical Transfer Process

A 'time critical' maternal transfers is one where it is anticipated that access to tertiary services are essential for safe care and the PERS consultant has judged that there is a brief window of opportunity to safely initiate and achieve transfer.

There have been a number of discussions regarding the time critical process and the following has been agreed to:

1. It would be the responsibility of the PERS consultant to *flag the case as 'time critical'* as soon as it becomes apparent during the initial triage call that the circumstances meet the criteria for which access to tertiary services are essential, and they have judged that there is a brief window of opportunity to safely initiate and achieve transfer.
2. Once the case is designated as 'time critical', the referring hospital will be asked to *initiate transport arrangements immediately*, and a provisional destination hospital will be nominated.
3. If more than one tertiary centre has NICU bed availability, the patient will be directed towards the geographically closest of those centres.
4. If only one tertiary centre has NICU bed availability the patient will be directed towards that centre.
5. *If after 15 minutes the admission has not been accepted by the bed co-ordinator or registrar at the hospital to which the patient has been provisionally directed*, the PERS consultant will be able to exercise the options of over-riding the bed co-ordinator or registrar. If that occurs, the PERS consultant will personally contact the Clinical Service Director (or their delegate) at the relevant site to discuss the case
6. If there is no NICU availability the patient will be directed towards the geographically closest tertiary centre and a conference call will be initiated by either the PERS Clinical Coordinator or PERS Consultant with the Maternity Clinical Service Directors and/or NICU Directors of all tertiary sites, with a view to potentially redirecting the patient while still in transit.

The disposition of all cases identified as 'time critical' will be reported quarterly to the PERS Advisory group.