

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS IN NEONATAL TRANSPORT

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I have Nothing to Disclose!



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS/NICU TRANSPORT


Neonatal Transport is a high risk service to work in, because of the type of patients that we care for, a changing environment, differing equipment and a high workload and responsibility

It is important to recognize situations that may affect the safety of the patient or the team.



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS DEFINITIONS

Situational awareness is the perception of environmental elements and events with respect to time or space, the comprehension of their meaning, and the projection of their status after some variable has changed, such as time, or some other variable, such as a predetermined event. It is also a field of study concerned with understanding of the environment critical to decision-makers in complex, dynamic areas from aviation, air traffic control, ship navigation, power plant operations, military command and control and emergency services.



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Situational awareness involves being aware of what is happening in the vicinity to understand how information, events and one's own actions will impact goals and objectives, both immediately and in the near future. One with an adept sense of situational awareness generally has a high degree of knowledge with respect to inputs and outputs of a system, an innate "feel" for situations, people, and events that play out because of variables that subject can control. Lacking or inadequate situational awareness has been identified as one of the primary factors in accidents attributed to human error. Thus situation awareness is especially important in work environments where the information flow can be quite high and poor decisions may lead to serious consequences.

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The success or failure of a team depends on the success or failure of each of its team members. If any one of the team members has poor situational awareness, it can lead to a critical error in performance that can undermine the success of the entire team. Each team member needs to have a high level of Situational Awareness on those factors that are relevant for his or her job. It is not sufficient for one member of the team to be aware of critical information if the team member who needs that information is not aware.

Communication is key!!!



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Situational awareness is broken down into three segments

- ◆ perception of the elements in the environment
- ◆ comprehension of the situation
- ◆ projection of future status

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS/TEAM STEPS

Status of the Patient

Team Members

Environment

Progress Toward Goal



SITUATION AWARENESS/NICU TRANSPORT

Status of the patient

We are called upon to transport many types of infant's. Some are stable and others are critically ill. The ability of the team to adequately evaluate the patient and provide appropriate care to safely transport patient is our primary goal.



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Team Members

What ever the team composition, when it comes to safety and good clinical governance it is knowledge, practical skill, good judgement, effective communication and competency that are the necessary requirements. If these are taught and assessed well then professional boundaries become less important and a more cohesive workforce is born; one that can deliver a much more positive impact to a sick infant.

Being able to communicate effectively and tactfully within the transport team as well as being able to talk to local hospital staff and parents in a way that empowers and supports them is essential to maintaining morale and ensuring the greatest productivity in a stressful situation

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Team Members

Need to recognize limitations in themselves that may make transport and care of the critically ill infant not be successful. Things such as hours worked, fatigue, exhaustion, dehydration, hunger or illness should be identified and addressed.



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Environment

NICU Transport teams go to many different facilities to transport infants.

- Emergency Rooms



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Birthing Centers



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Clinics



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Nurseries



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Neonatal Intensive Care Units



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Transportation Decisions

There are 4 subsequent critical decision steps necessary for each transport.

First step-evaluate the clinical status of the patient

Second step-evaluation of the medical care the patient requires before and during transport, including an evaluation of the available medical care at the referring facility.

Third step-determine the urgency of the transport

Fourth step- logistics of the transport ie: availability of transport resources, weather considerations, ground traffic accessibility.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS/NICU TRANSPORT

Ambulance

Primary means of prehospital patient transport and most common vehicle used for interfacility transport



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS/NICU TRANSPORT

Helicopter



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Fixed Wing/Airplane



NICU TRANSPORT TEAMS



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