

## NEONATAL TIME CRITICAL CARDIAC TRANSFERS IN THE YORKSHIRE & HUMBER REGION.

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**Introduction:** Embrace, Yorkshire & Humber Infant & Children's Transport Service, combined neonatal and paediatric team is ideally placed to evaluate all transfers into our regional paediatric cardiac centre<sup>1</sup>.

**Aim:** Service evaluation/ involvement in cardiac transfers.

**Methods:** Retrospective case review April 2010 - April 2011. Cases were identified from our database by searching for referral category "cardiac /congenital heart disease".

Subgroup analysis was done for time critical transfers defined as patients on prostaglandin infusion in the absence of previous cardiac diagnosis.

**Results:** 2323 referrals resulted in transfer. 198 (8.5%) were cardiac (74 paediatric, 124 neonatal). Of the neonatal transfers, 121(98%) were carried out by Embrace, 3(2%) by other teams/referring hospitals.

There were 31 time critical transfers done by Embrace equating to approximately 0.5 time critical neonatal cardiac transfers / 1000 live births in our region.

Details:

Sex	20 male (65%) 11 female
Gestation at birth (Weeks)	
27 – 36	5 (16%)
36 – term	26 (84%)
Median age at referral (range)	1day (0 - 49)
Ventilated	12 (39%)
CPAP	1 (3%)
No respiratory support	18 (58%)
Antenatal diagnosis of complex cardiac anomaly	2 (4.5%)

Median mobilisation time (referral call to departing base) 46 minutes (13 - 342)

Median stabilisation time 80 minutes (30 - 205).

Time from referral call to arrival at cardiac centre 265 minutes (104 – 477)

**Conclusion:** Cardiac transfers constitute a significant proportion of our workload and this needs to be recognised in future service reconfiguration<sup>2</sup>. Only 4.5% babies with an antenatal cardiac diagnosis were born in centres without cardiac services.

More work needs to be done to improve mobilisation time in this population.<sup>3</sup>

### References

1. Harrison C. Embracing the future – Yorkshire & Humber Infant and Children Transport Service. Infant 2011; 7(2): 57-61.

2. Children's Congenital Cardiac Services – Safe and Sustainable

[http://www.specialiseservices.nhs.uk/safe\\_sustainable/childrens-congenital-cardiac-services](http://www.specialiseservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/childrens-congenital-cardiac-services)

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3. National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence – Specialist neonatal care quality standard - Neonatal transfer services.

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(Date accessed: 30/06/2011)